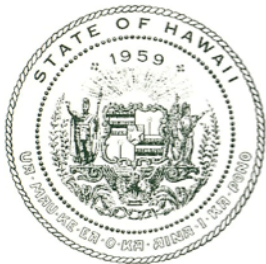


HAWAII
STATE
COMMISSION
ON THE
STATUS
OF
WOMEN



Chair
LESLIE WILKINS

COMMISSIONERS:

SHERRY CAMPAGNA
CYD HOFFELD
JUDY KERN
MARILYN LEE
AMY MONK
LISA ELLEN SMITH

Executive Director
Catherine Betts, JD

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235 S. Beretania #407
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: 808-586-5758
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February 1, 2017

To: Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental
and Military Affairs

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

Re: Testimony in Support, SB 520, Relating to Police Commissions

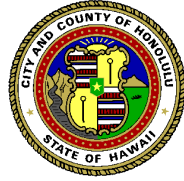
The Commission supports SB 520, which would amend the composition of county police commissions to require that three commissioners have backgrounds in equality for women, civil rights, and law enforcement. This is an extremely important policy that would ensure a breadth of diversity and experience on the police commission.

It has become abundantly clear that the police commission can be more instrumental in providing insight and advice on internal procedures, citizen complaints, disciplinary methods, and internal leadership. This bill would ensure the presence of commissioners with experience and education in vitally important areas, to prevent potential bias or "blind spots" and ethical overreaching by law enforcement. It seems that this may be best served by the entire commission having background in the aforementioned areas of expertise, rather than just three.

The Commission supports SB 520. Thank you for your consideration of this important bill.

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR

ROY K. AMEMIYA, JR.
MANAGING DIRECTOR

GEORGETTE T. DEEMER
DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY,
INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2017, 1:15 PM

TO: THE HONORABLE CLARENCE K. NISHIHARA, CHAIR
THE HONORABLE GLENN WAKAI, VICE CHAIR
AND MEMBERS OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

FROM: ROY K. AMEMIYA, JR., MANAGING DIRECTOR
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON S.B.520, RELATING TO POLICE COMMISSIONS

The City and County of Honolulu appreciates the intent of S.B.520, which amends the composition of the county police commissions to require that the commission include: (1) the Executive Director of the State Commission on the Status of Women, or a designated commissioner; (2) the Executive Director of the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission, or a designated commissioner; and (3) an individual with prior experience in the field of law enforcement, who is not currently serving on the police commission and in a law enforcement position.

While commissioners with these backgrounds provide benefits to the Honolulu Police Commission, the City believes that this measure is not necessary. When appointing members to the Honolulu Police Commission, the Mayor considers these factors, as well as many other factors. The Honolulu Police Commission currently has seven members. Adding an additional three members will make the Commission unwieldy and may impact the Commission's ability to form a quorum.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.



February 1, 2017

To: Hawaii State Senate Committee on Public Safety,
Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs, the Senate Committee on
Judiciary and Labor, and the Senate Committee on Ways and
Means
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 2, 2017 (1:15 p.m.)
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Rm. 229
Re: Testimony of American Association of University Women –
Hawaii in **support of S.B. 520**, relating to police
commissions

Dear Senator Clarence K. Nishihara (Chair), Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran (Chair),
Senator Jill N. Tokuda (Chair), Senator Glen Wakai (Vice-Chair), Senator Karl Rhoads
(Vice Chair), Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz (Vice Chair), and Members of the
Committees,

I am grateful for this opportunity to testify in **strong support of S.B. 520**, which would
require three members of the police commission to have an understanding of important
issues underlying their deliberations, specifically women's equality, civil rights, and law
enforcement.

My testimony is on behalf of the approximately 400 members of the American
Association of University Women (AAUW) in Hawaii, who list gender-based violence as
an important current concern.

This submission is informed by many years of teaching sociology at the University of
Hawaii – Manoa, and elsewhere, along with my experiences in working with the police in
Canterbury Region, New Zealand. I have taught at the University of Hawaii – Manoa for
seven years, and have heard many horror stories from students about misunderstanding
and lack of assistance from law enforcement. This is inexcusable, and this situation will
only change with appropriate monitoring by the Police Commission, along with
education of both Commission members, and police, combined with police instruction
from higher levels to deal appropriately with survivors of domestic violence.

In conclusion, passage of S.B. 520 is an important step in improving justice for survivors
of domestic violence, typically women, as demonstrated by extensive research.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely
Susan J. Wurtzburg, Ph.D., Policy Chair



TO: Chair Nishihara
Vice Chair Wakai
Members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

FR: Nanci Kreidman, M.A.

RE: SB 520 Support

Aloha! Thank you for hearing this Measure today. There have been many discussions and a great deal of attention currently focused on the Honolulu Police Department and the Police Commission. Evaluating the composition of the Police Commission may be warranted and beneficial for overall Commission functioning and Department appropriateness.

Adjusting composition and appropriate membership on the Police Commission is a reasonable step to improve oversight of law enforcement. With a diversity of experience and pertinent professional expertise in the membership there is the increased likelihood that information, insights, and input will meet community needs for a responsive Commission and police departments.

The addition of appointees with the particular expertise described in this Bill is an excellent idea and paves the way for broader community input into effective law enforcement in each of our Counties.

Thank you for your favorable action on this measure.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 9:38 AM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: laurie.field@ppvnh.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB520 on Feb 2, 2017 13:15PM*

SB520

Submitted on: 2/1/2017

Testimony for PSM on Feb 2, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laurie Field	Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii	Support	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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 1:42 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: annsfreed@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB520 on Feb 2, 2017 13:15PM

SB520

Submitted on: 2/1/2017

Testimony for PSM on Feb 2, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ann S Freed	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chair Nishihara and members, This is a common-sense measure which would go a long way in helping to alleviate violence against women, would promote full equality for all and would enhance the abilities of the various commissions to do their collective jobs. Our communities have lost faith both in the Commissions and our police departments. This could help to restore public trust. Mahalo, Ann S. Freed, Women's Rights Advocate

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Mary Kay Hertog

To the Honorable Senator Clarence Nishihara and Vice Chair Glen Wakai,
Chairs of the Senate Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs and Members of the
Committee,

Re: HB 682 and SB 520 (relating to Police Commissions)

I am the Chair of the Kauai Police Commission. I am submitting this testimony in my personal capacity. However, the thoughts expressed herein are shared by my fellow commissioners.

The basic premise of these two bills is flawed and inaccurate. The bills state "Currently, the county police commissions are charged with overseeing conduct of county police departments or officers." That is not true. The general powers of each county police commission are specific in that it is the Chief of Police who has the authority to promulgate rules and regulations necessary for the organization and administration of the police department. The County charters also state police commissions will refer matters relating to the administration of the department to the Chief of Police. Major changes to county charters will have to be accomplished to comply with the language of these bills.

This legislation removes the county mayors and county councils from selecting at least two of their volunteer police commissioners, which is problematic. While it is important to have commissioners with a variety of backgrounds, it is unclear how appointed members from the state and by the state can make this work, especially when it is not currently in any county's charter.

There are only five members on the state Civil Rights commission. How will these members cover four different police commissions, with some commissions meeting twice a month? Permitted Interaction Groups that work specific issues are appointed by the Police Commission chair. These groups will not be as effective in resolving problems in a timely manner when there are only a few local commissioners available to sit on these groups. Commissioners need to be familiar with the workings of that individual department, not just with their subject matter expertise. Commissioners also need to be familiar with the problems their community/county faces. How will they get that familiarity when living on one island and attending one or two meetings a month on another island? Are individual counties expected to fund the travel of these appointed commissioners or will that be a state responsibility?

It is important that each police commission have women on their commission. But again, how will this be feasible when someone from the state commission on the status of women is appointed? Each county already has a representative on the state commission on the status of women. That representative, living on that particular island, could be the appointee. That person should be able to speak to the state's priorities on domestic violence, sexual assault, homeless and single parent families as well as a host of other problems women face. But if that person is not a volunteer to serve on a second commission, problems will arise.

Having a commissioner with prior law enforcement experience is not enough. It is more critical to have a commissioner with prior law enforcement managerial experience. There is a big difference in the perspective of a person that served in the police department but had no supervisory or budgetary responsibilities, from a police officer manager with experience in supervision, budgetary, personnel, training, and disciplinary issues. A commissioner with that kind of experience can accurately assess whether or not the Chief of Police is managing and leading the department in the appropriate manner.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to submit my testimony.