

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 18 2015

RE: S.B. No. 497

S.D. 1

Honorable Donna Mercado Kim
President of the Senate
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2015
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and
Military Affairs, to which was referred S.B. No. 497 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO POLICE DEPARTMENTS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to repeal the
privacy exemption within the Uniform Information Practices Act for
county police department officers.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Office of Information Practices, Hawaii State Commission
on the Status of Women, League of Women Voters, Domestic Violence
Action Center, Civil Beat Law Center for the Public Interest,
Society of Professional Journalists, Hawaii State Democratic
Women's Caucus, Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence,
Common Cause Hawaii, and three individuals. Your Committee
received testimony in opposition to this measure from the State of
Hawaii Organization of Police Officers.

Your Committee finds that the Honolulu Police Department has
been heavily criticized by lawmakers and the public in the wake of
a recent high-profile domestic violence incident involving an off-
duty Honolulu Police Department sergeant and his then-girlfriend.
The sergeant's actions sparked concern about the way the police
departments handle domestic violence cases and public
accountability for police officers. While other government
employees' misconduct information becomes accessible by the public
if the misconduct results in the employee's suspension or

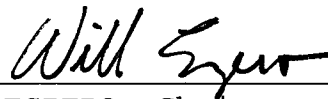


discharge, existing law provides a privacy exemption within the Uniform Information Practices Act for county police officers. Implementation of this measure will increase accountability of police officers whose misconduct results in suspension or discharge and ensure that police officers are held to the same standards as other government employees.

Your Committee has amended this measure by making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 497, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 497, S.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Labor.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Public Safety,
Intergovernmental and Military
Affairs,



WILL ESPERO, Chair



