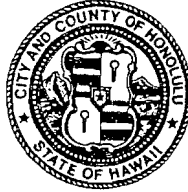


POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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OUR REFERENCE GY-LS

February 9, 2006

The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs  
The Senate  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Ige and Members:

Subject: Senate Bill No. 2074, Relating to Making an Appropriation for Development of a Nonemergency Reporting System, Known as 3-1-1

I am Kenneth Simmons, Major of the Communications Division, Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD supports the amendment to Senate Bill No. 2074 and urges your committee to pass this bill as written.

Our department had previously requested the creation of a plan to levy a surcharge for every 3-1-1 telephone line (whether landline or wireless) to fund the development and operations of the 3-1-1 reporting system. However, we have since deferred this proposal to the city administration and support the development of a citywide 3-1-1 reporting system by appropriation rather than by levying a surcharge. A component of the citywide 3-1-1 reporting system will be engineered to include police nonemergency calls instead of the present system of all calls being screened by police 9-1-1 operators.

The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair  
and Members  
Page 2  
February 9, 2006

Annually, the HPD continues to receive more than one million calls to the 9-1-1 telephone system; about 75 percent of these calls are for nonemergency purposes. The HPD views the citywide 3-1-1 reporting system as a positive step toward decreasing the number of nonemergency calls to the 9-1-1 system and providing an alternative for nonemergency calls for city services.

By amending this bill and requesting for an appropriation to develop a citywide 3-1-1 system, we believe that it will better serve a broader constituency. Additionally, a model 3-1-1 system may be duplicated to also serve constituents and first responders on the neighbor islands.

Our department urges your committee to pass Senate Bill No. 2074 as written.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support of this bill.

Sincerely,

  
KENNETH SIMMONS, Major  
Communications Division

APPROVED:

  
BOISSE P. CORREA  
Chief of Police