



*The Judiciary, State of Hawai'i*

**Testimony to the  
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs**

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 14, 2017, 2:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

By

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

Rodney A. Maile  
Administrative Director of the Courts

---

**Bill No. and Title:** Senate Bill No. 1293, Relating to Public Safety.

**Purpose:** Establishes the special operations K9 unit special fund. Appropriates money to the fund for deputy canines and full-time equivalent (FTE) permanent canine handler positions within the department of public safety.

**Judiciary's Position:**

The Judiciary supports this bill which would establish a special fund and an appropriation to said fund in order to expand the capacity of the Department of Public Safety's (PSD) special operations K9 unit.

Citing the steep increase of deaths from accidental drug overdose, half of which is attributable to illegal drugs, as a public health crisis, this bill will increase the special K9 unit to encompass the entire state. This unit, currently based only in Honolulu, consists of only five deputy canines with only 2 specializing in narcotics detection.

Additionally, we are in support of the bill's intent to expand this program statewide. The Department of Public Safety provides law enforcement and security for the Judiciary statewide.



Senate Bill No. 1293, Relating to Public Safety  
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
Tuesday, February 14, 2017  
Page 2

Having special operations K9 units on all the major islands, in every judicial circuit, will ensure greater protection from bomb threats to courthouses.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 1293.