



HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL
KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

No. 24-12, CD1

RESOLUTION

URGING THE CITY'S FIRST RESPONDER AGENCIES TO DEVELOP REASONABLE AND EFFECTIVE ACCESS TO DISPATCH RADIO COMMUNICATIONS.

WHEREAS, many government agencies utilize radio communications to dispatch public safety and public works personnel in response to emergencies and calls for services; and

WHEREAS, historically, such dispatch radio communications were broadcast on open and unencrypted channels that could be accessed by the media and the public; and

WHEREAS, since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, public safety agencies have had to rethink communications strategies to balance the need to protect critical public safety communications from compromise and provide the public with timely information; and

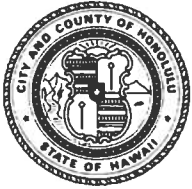
WHEREAS, the media relied on their ability to monitor radio communications to disseminate emergency-related information to the general public, and a segment of the public has monitored dispatch radio communications as a means of keeping abreast of events occurring within the community; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Justice through its Criminal Justice Information Services ("CJIS") security policy requires the protection of criminal justice information and personally identifiable information; and

WHEREAS, compliance with the CJIS security policy is mandatory to ensure the protection, confidentiality, and integrity of criminal justice information, and noncompliance can lead to severe sanctions and a breach of public trust; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Health and Human Services through the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act ("HIPAA") requires the protection of an individual's protected health information; and

WHEREAS, encryption is used by federal, state, and city government agencies to protect confidential or sensitive information, the release of which could violate medical privacy laws, compromise police investigations, or lead to security breaches; and



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WHEREAS, advances in digital technology have made such radio communication encryption more readily available and accessible to first responder agencies; and

WHEREAS, recently, the City and County of Honolulu ("City") completed the conversion of its analog communications system to a digital communications system, which encrypts first responder radio traffic, including the dispatch radio communications of the Honolulu Police Department, Honolulu Fire Department, and Honolulu Emergency Services Department; and

WHEREAS, media and public access to live dispatch communications has been replaced by email alerts, text messages, spreadsheets, and a listing of active dispatch calls; and

WHEREAS, the transition to an encrypted communications system prevents the public and media from accessing real-time dispatch radio communications; and

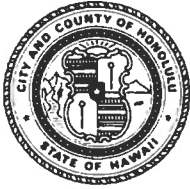
WHEREAS, there have been instances of dangerous situations in populated areas, such as active shooters, armed and dangerous individuals, and violent crimes, where accurate and timely information was not available to the media and the public; and

WHEREAS, in the wake of these events, the media and some members of the public have expressed concern that without access to the real-time police dispatch communications, they will not be able to keep themselves and their families safe from ongoing dangerous activities; and

WHEREAS, the City Council believes that, to the greatest extent possible, government operations should be conducted in an open and transparent manner; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes that the City's first responder agencies must comply with CJIS policy and HIPAA, and that the need to conceal certain sensitive information must be balanced against the media and public's need to have timely information regarding emergency situations; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that each of the City's first responder agencies are urged to develop reasonable and effective policies and measures regarding media and public access to timely and accurate



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information that balance the interests of the public with the needs of the respective agency; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, the Managing Director, the Chief of Police, the Fire Chief, the Director of Emergency Services, the Director of Information Technology, the Executive Director of the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation, the Chief Engineer of the Department of Facility Maintenance, the Director of the Department of Environmental Services, and the Director of Parks and Recreation.

INTRODUCED BY:

Tommy Waters

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

January 5, 2024
Honolulu, Hawai'i

Councilmembers

CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII
CERTIFICATE

RESOLUTION 24-12, CD1

Introduced: 01/05/24 By: TOMMY WATERS

Committee: EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT (EM)

Title: URGING THE CITY'S FIRST RESPONDER AGENCIES TO DEVELOP REASONABLE AND EFFECTIVE ACCESS TO DISPATCH RADIO COMMUNICATIONS.

Voting Legend: * = Aye w/Reservations

01/05/24	INTRO	Introduced.
01/11/24	EM	Reported out for adoption as amended in CD1 form. CR-30 3 AYES: CORDERO, SAY, WATERS 2 ABSENT: KIA'ĀINA, WEYER
01/24/24	CCL	Committee report and Resolution as amended were adopted. 8 AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, OKIMOTO, SAY, TULBA, WATERS, WEYER 1 ABSENT: TUPOLA

I hereby certify that the above is a true record of action by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu on this RESOLUTION.


GLEN I. TAKAHASHI, CITY CLERK


TOMMY WATERS, CHAIR AND PRESIDING OFFICER