

RES25-030
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 66

PUBLIC SAFETY & CUSTOMER SERVICES (PS)

PUBLIC SAFETY & CUSTOMER SERVICES (PS) Meeting

Meeting Date: Feb 13, 2025 @ 01:00 PM

Support: 14

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Jacob Wiencek	jacob.m.wiencek1@gmail.com	96815
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Feb 7, 2025 @ 11:39 PM
Testimony: Aloha Councilmembers, Unfortunately, public safety at schools is a rising concern. School resource officers offer a valuable link between law enforcement and educators to ensure a safe and orderly school system. This is a commendable resolution; however I would ask the Committee to consider expanding the geographic request to encompass the entire city. So many of our other schools in other neighborhoods could benefit from such postings. Nonetheless, I urge the Committee to SUPPORT this bill!		
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Keahi Kuikahi	keahikuikahi@yahoo.com	96792
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Feb 12, 2025 @ 03:10 PM
Testimony: Aloha, I support RES25-030. If you apply common sense and consider the history of what's been happening on the WestSide, it's clear why this should be supported.		
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Patty Kahanamoku-Teruya	pattyteruya@gmail.com	96792
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Feb 12, 2025 @ 03:15 PM
Testimony: Aloha, I fully support this resolution to have public safety measures available in our public school system. Currently many of your security officers are not experienced nor have the capacity to arrest or trained properly. The public schools are not safe as my grandchildren attend Nanakuli High School and Campbell High school, the bullying still continues along with racism and attacks. I strong support this measure to place safety in our public schools so students feel safe to attend. Mahalo, Patty Kahanamoku Teruya		
Name:	Email:	Zip:

Christina Everett	ceverett@projectnehemiahhi.com	96792
Representing: Project Nehemiah Hawaii	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 12, 2025 @ 03:16 PM

Testimony:

Having police officers in schools is important for several reasons:

1. Safety and Security – Officers provide immediate protection for students and staff in case of emergencies, including threats of violence, intruders, or other dangerous situations.
2. Crime Prevention – Their presence helps deter criminal activities such as bullying, drug use, and vandalism, creating a safer school environment.
3. Rapid Response – In case of an emergency, having law enforcement on-site ensures a quicker response time, potentially preventing harm.
4. Building Trust – When officers engage positively with students, it helps build trust between law enforcement and the community, fostering respect and open communication.
5. Guidance and Mentorship – Many school resource officers act as mentors, providing guidance on decision-making, conflict resolution, and legal issues.
6. Waianae or the west side is much needed for this resolution to pass

While their presence can be beneficial, it's important to ensure that officers are properly trained to work with students in a way that promotes safety and positive interactions.

Name: Michael Rice	Email: michaelirice@outlook.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 12, 2025 @ 07:59 PM

Testimony:

I am writing in support of RES25-30. School Resources Officers are LONG overdue, not only on the Westside and Oahu but the entire state. I have heard so many horror stories about Waianae High School alone it would turn heads. I am a Second Amendment Advocate, and I'm quite honestly shocked we haven't had more shootings on campus with everything that's been going on.

A couple years ago now, I was at a family function when I was approached by a then 17 year old nephew (I will not be giving his name as even as an adult living on the mainland he fears reprisals from what he told me.) He knew I was into guns and the topic drifted over to 'Uncle, how I can get one gun?' 'Can't get one here till you're 21, I can take you to the range if you want and we can shoot my guns.' 'No uncle, I need one gun...' Now, I normally get annoyed when people ask me 'why do you need a for', but I had to ask the question considering his insistence and age.

It turns out he was made aware of an incident that happened on the Campus of Waianae High School where a student went into the office and said something to the effect of 'I was robbed at gunpoint of my drugs and money.' This student

was a dealer on campus who admitted to taking part in illegal activity, stating that a gun was pointed at them and others. For whatever reason WHS Admin did not call HPD, despite DOE's 'Zero Tolerance Policy' towards guns where students playing with toy guns results in the campus going on Lockdown and SSD showing up.

Security was sent to handle the situation (unarmed), when they found the student in question, the student simply ran off campus crossing the street into Ulu Wehi, he was spotted at this point carrying a red backpack. When he returned to campus he was noted to not have the backpack and security searched him, and of course found no drugs or money. The student after being released started bragging to his friends (according to my nephew, they are a gang styling themselves off Mainland 'Bloods'.) as well as other students on campus and quickly got the reputation that if he had his Red Backpack, he had his gun on him. He supposedly even started openly threatening Security at Waianae. This same student later went on and was involved in two separate incidents at Makaha Beach, one was an attempted robbery and shooting in broad daylight, the other was a shooting at night that resulted in the death of Miguel Agoo Jr. (Miguel was also under 21 and armed with his own handgun).

Perhaps Miguel Agoo Jr. would still be alive today if Admin took the report of a gun seriously and called HPD, or at the very least had a resource officer who could have pursued the suspect off campus and called for backup. This is not the only incident I'm aware of where Admin has shown a lackluster response towards crime on campus, and I've been told that Security on campus has even stopped confronting students altogether out of fear. One female student was caught selling 'Vape Pens' on campus (via her Instagram), she was caught, her backpack full of Vapes confiscated and HPD called. Her mother arrived before HPD did, told the student to go wait in the car, took custody of the backpack saying it was 'hers and she stole it', and left the office before HPD showed up. When they did, HPD said they could do nothing because they had no Suspect, and no Evidence. Sounds to me like a SRO on campus would be a good thing even for minor crimes, and perhaps students wouldn't be getting away with selling drugs on campus.

This is long overdue and quite honestly, security overall needs to be improved at our schools, and not just with SROs, even though I have concerns with stretching HPD's already sparse resources thin. What are we at now? 500 vacant positions at HPD?

Michael Rice

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Michael Ferreira	mickferreirais@gmail.com	96707
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Feb 13, 2025 @ 04:42 AM

Testimony:

With the unrest facing West Oahu schools, a public resource officer or officers is needed to keep the peace. Whether it is kids tipping them off to trouble at home to being hands on with student disputes. Some of these “kids” are committing “adult” crimes and even teachers are fearful.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Kelley Costa	kelley.costa@live.com	96792
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Feb 13, 2025 @ 06:27 AM
Testimony: Aloha, I'm writing in support of having Resource Officers present in the West Oahu public high schools. Allowing officers to be present in the schools confirm the commitment the Honolulu Police Department and Department of Education has towards the betterment of the people they serve. Mahalo, Kelley Costa		
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Alyson Hiapo	ahiapo@gmail.com	96792
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Feb 13, 2025 @ 09:09 AM
Testimony: I support RES25-030 URGING THE HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE HAWAI'I STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT TO ASSIGN SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS TO WEST O'AHU PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS. The moku of Wai'anae is needing support for our schools along the westside. DOE schools are needing partners to help our students in learning what behaviors are pono and acceptable in their lives. Schools are just another place that these teachings, these boundaries are modeled as they spend so much time of their growing years with educational mentors. We all are mentors. Please kōkua in providing these resources that are schools, that are families, that our kaiāulu are needing for the future of our communities and our state. These young adults will be our leaders, our hope for the state and world but we ALL need to be there during these early stages of their lives so that they will be able to experience what their ancestors and neighbors are hoping for ALL our keiki. Let's give them hope by providing our support and Aloha. mahalo for your thoughtful consideration.		
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Shelby Billionaire	presidentbillionaire@gmail.com	96792
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands	Support	Feb 13, 2025 @ 09:11 AM
Testimony: Subject: Support for SRO Program in West Oahu Schools with Proposed Amendments		

To: All Members of the Honolulu City Council & Council member Andria Tupola and Council Chair Tommy Waters,

Dear Councilmembers,

I am writing to express my firm support for the resolution to establish School Resource Officers (SROs) in West Oahu public high schools, recognizing the urgent need for enhanced security in light of rising violent crime statistics. However, to ensure this initiative achieves its intended positive impact while mitigating potential downsides, I propose the following amendments and recommendations:

Supportive Elements:

Enhanced Safety: The resolution addresses a critical issue with the noted increase in violent crimes around school areas, with SROs providing both deterrence and immediate response.

Community and Mentorship: SROs offer a unique opportunity for positive law enforcement-student interactions, contributing to safer and more supportive school environments.

Preventive Measures: SRO presence can de-escalate potential conflicts, reducing the need for external police involvement.

Proven Model: The success in other Hawaiian counties provides a blueprint for potential success in Honolulu.

Proposed Amendments and Recommendations:

Cultural Competence and Sensitivity:

Amendment: Include a requirement for mandatory cultural sensitivity training for all SROs, with an initial fund of \$50,000 annually for this purpose.

Reason: To address concerns about cultural misunderstandings, ensuring SROs are equipped to interact respectfully with our diverse student population.

Role Clarity and Training:

Amendment: Define clearly in the resolution that SROs are not just law enforcement but also educators and mentors.

Develop guidelines on the appropriate scenarios for police involvement versus educational responses.

Reason: To prevent an overly punitive school environment and to focus on education and guidance rather than enforcement for minor issues.

Funding and Resource Management:

Amendment: Specify funding for the program with an initial allocation of \$1.5 million for the first year, covering salaries, comprehensive training, and program implementation. Suggest annual reviews to adjust funding based on program effectiveness and need.

Reason: To ensure adequate resources are allocated without overextending HPD's current capabilities, potentially at the expense of community policing.

Cultural Integration:

Amendment: Allocate \$100,000 for community engagement events where SROs can interact with students and families in

non-law enforcement settings.

Reason: To build trust and positive relationships, reinforcing the community liaison aspect of the SRO role.

Evaluation and Accountability:

Amendment: Establish an ongoing evaluation framework to assess the SRO program's impact on safety, behavior, and academic outcomes, with public annual reports.

Reason: To maintain transparency and allow for data-driven adjustments to the program.

Educational Collaboration:

Amendment: Require formal collaboration protocols between SROs and school staff to ensure decisions reflect educational goals over purely security measures.

Reason: To integrate SROs into the educational fabric of the school, promoting a balanced approach to student welfare.

Community and Parental Involvement:

Amendment: Mandate public engagement through forums or surveys before and during implementation to tailor the program to community needs.

Reason: To ensure the program is developed with community input, fostering greater acceptance and support.

These amendments would not only strengthen the resolution but also address the potential pitfalls, ensuring the SRO program serves as a model for community safety, cultural respect, and educational support. I urge you to incorporate these recommendations into the final resolution to create a well-rounded, effective, and culturally sensitive approach to school safety.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter, especially to Councilmember Tupola and Chair Waters for your leadership in addressing community safety concerns.

Sincerely,

Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire
Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Rokeuaine Letua	clc_elder@yahoo.com	96792
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Feb 13, 2025 @ 09:41 AM

Testimony:

Subject: Support for SRO Program in West Oahu Public High Schools with Recommendations for Success

Dear Honorable Members of the Honolulu City Council,

I am writing to express my strong support for the resolution urging the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) and the Hawaii

State Department of Education (DOE) to collaborate in assigning School Resource Officers (SROs) to public high schools in West Oahu. Given the alarming statistics on the increase in violent crime and the significant number of calls for police service at schools like Waianae, Kapolei, James Campbell, and Nanākuli High Schools, this initiative is both timely and necessary. Benefits of SROs:

Enhanced Safety: SROs can act as a deterrent to crime and provide an immediate response to incidents, ensuring the safety of students and staff.

Community Liaison: Officers can foster positive relationships, serve as mentors, and contribute to community well-being by offering education on safety and conflict resolution. Cultural Competence Training:

Allocate \$50,000 annually for specialized cultural training for SROs, focusing on understanding and respecting Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander cultures to avoid cultural misunderstandings.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Angela Melody Young	alohadivinedesign@gmail.com	96817
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
CARES	Support	Feb 13, 2025 @ 10:53 AM
Testimony:		
Support.		

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Malia Agustin	maliaagustin96792@gmail.com	96792
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Feb 13, 2025 @ 11:56 AM

Testimony:

Testimony in Support of RES25-030

Aloha e Chair Okimoto, Vice Chair Kia’aina, and Members of the Public Safety and Customer Service Committee,

I am writing in strong support of Resolution 25-030, urging the Honolulu Police Department and the Hawai’i State Department of Education to enter into an agreement to assign School Resource Officers (SROs) to West O’ahu public high schools.

As a concerned community member, I recognize the growing need for increased safety measures in our schools. West O’ahu high schools face unique challenges, and the presence of SROs can provide critical support in ensuring a secure learning environment. Beyond enforcement, these officers serve as mentors, building positive relationships with students and fostering trust between law enforcement and the community.

By assigning SROs to our schools, we can help prevent conflicts, provide guidance to at-risk youth, and enhance overall

campus safety. I urge you to support this resolution to prioritize the well-being of our students and educators.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Malia Agustin

Name: Cassandra Werner	Email: waianaecoastcleanup@gmail.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 13, 2025 @ 12:20 PM

Testimony:

I am in support of Res 25-030, This is an opportunity for kids to feel safe and get to know their local officers. Children become what they are exposed to. Let's expose them to positive role models working real jobs and making real differences that they can see and build relationships with.

Mahalo,

Cassandra Werner

Name: Marvel Mahuka	Email: marvelousmahuka@gmail.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Feb 13, 2025 @ 12:35 PM

Testimony:

I believe that police presence in schools could prevent violence because a visual consequence would be more effective then a verbal one. Youths now seem more inclined to what's right in front of them then what may come.