

**BILL046(25)**  
**Testimony**

**MISC. COMM. 323**

COUNCIL

## **COUNCIL Meeting**

Meeting Date: Jun 4, 2025 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 2

Oppose: 1

I wish to comment: 2

Name: Jacob Wiencek	Email: jacob.m.wiencek@pm.me	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 2, 2025 @ 11:16 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha Councilmembers,</p> <p>Public transparency of police operations is crucial to a healthy trust between government and the people. The necessity of secure communications is undeniably crucial, yet I believe we can have a proper balance between secure communications and public knowledge of police operations. I believe this bill is a useful compromise to ensure responsible police transparency.</p> <p>I encourage the Council to SUPPORT this bill.</p>		
Name: Jamie Hartnett	Email: jamie@hawaiiibroadcasters.com	Zip: 96839
Representing: Hawaii Association of Broadcasters	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 3, 2025 @ 10:24 AM
Name: Edward Fujioka	Email: puunui@msn.com	Zip: 96818
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Jun 3, 2025 @ 02:15 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I support this in concept. When I was in South Korea last year, I received push alerts on my ATT cell phone in English and Korean. These alerts are auto generated, and they ranged from Missing person(s) (Child or Adult), Large fires, traffic accidents and other major events. First Responder server maybe enabled to push basic info to a public notification server to the providers (Cell providers, VOIP and other landlines), the providers servers then push the alerts to their subscribers. Again, these are auto generated and configurable alerts, so minimal human power is required.</p>		
Name: Roy Kuroda	Email: rkuroda@honolulu.gov	Zip: 96819
Representing: Honolulu Police Department Telecommunications	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Jun 3, 2025 @ 06:19 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Representative will attend and testify in person</p>		
Name: Choon James	Email: choonjameshawaii@gmail.com	Zip: 96762

Representing: CountryTalkStory.com	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Jun 4, 2025 @ 09:11 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>We love our First Responders and appreciate their service and commitment to maintain law and order and tranquility in our communities.</p> <p>Free Press and Public Access is also a fundamental pillar of democracy in our nation. Full access to information is part of the needed Transparency and also for accurate information and understanding of real time happening. Any censorship of access like police scanner communications that limit media and public access undermines democracy.</p> <p>Mahalo, Choon James</p>		

June 3, 2025

**Honolulu City Council**

530 South King Street, Room 202  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**RE: Support for Public Safety and Transparency – Bill 46 Relating to the Honolulu Police Department Police Scanners (two pages)**

Dear Chair Tommy Waters and Members of the Honolulu City Council,

We, the undersigned radio and TV station members of the Hawai'i Association of Broadcasters, respectfully submit this letter in support of credentialed media access to timely, accurate information, and in strong opposition to any measure that would further limit media access to police scanner communications.

Currently on O'ahu, police scanners are closed to the media. This restricts our ability as broadcasters to fulfill a critical public service — keeping the people of Hawai'i informed in real time, especially during emergencies when every second matters. Whether it's a wildfire, a major traffic incident, or a missing child, access to real-time scanner traffic can significantly improve the speed and accuracy of the information we deliver to the public.

We understand the importance of responsible reporting. Our journalists are trained to verify details before broadcasting, and we share law enforcement's goal of protecting lives and maintaining public safety. The media is not the enemy — we are partners in crisis communication. Reopening scanner access would restore a vital tool that helps ensure community safety, promote public trust, and uphold transparency.

We urge the Honolulu City Council to consider the public's right to know and to work collaboratively with the media and the Honolulu Police Department on policies that support both operational security and the timely flow of critical information.

Let's work together — for public safety, for trust, and for the people of Hawai'i.

Sincerely,



