

BILL046(25)

Testimony

MISC. COMM. 488

*PUBLIC SAFETY & ECONOMY (PSE)

***PUBLIC SAFETY & ECONOMY (PSE) Meeting**

Meeting Date: Sep 25, 2025 @ 01:00 PM

Support: 6

Oppose: 2

I wish to comment: 0

Name: lynne matusow	Email: lynnehi@aol.com	Zip: 96817
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 22, 2025 @ 09:53 AM
Testimony: enough with the delays. pass this bill now. the public has the right to know what is going on, in real time. too often, because of poor leadership and communications skills at both HPD and the police commission, we are learning about serious situations via social media instead of via the media who we can trust. if HPD had its way, we wouldn't learn about anything until 3025 (this is not a typo).		
Name: Ross Isokane	Email: isokane@gmail.com	Zip: 96813
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Sep 23, 2025 @ 09:48 AM
Testimony: I oppose Bill 46 (2025) to require HPD to provide real-time access to police radio communications to media organizations. 1. HPD has a tough enough job keeping us (and themselves) safe. Therefore, I give great deference to their point of view/opposition (e.g., that this opens the City up to negative effects due to privacy requirements, could potentially endanger officers in the line of duty, etc.). When our officers are responding to a dangerous situation, the last thing they should be thinking about is, "I have to switch frequencies on my radio due to this media requirement and resulting privacy concerns." That distraction could result in a catastrophic outcome during a high-risk situation. 2. Especially in the current media age, I'm afraid I don't fully trust our local media organizations to exercise journalistic responsibility and apply the appropriate judgment on what sensitive information they receive from HPD that they should stay silent on vs. publish as a news story. During past hearings, I've heard their claim that we can trust them to only publish key public safety details they pick up on police scanners (and related claim they would refrain from publishing private, sensitive information of individuals that may damage their reputation and isn't in the public interest). But I'm fearful that in this current news environment (where publishers are most incentivized by clicks), there is a more-than-insignificant risk that inappropriate and non-newsworthy information about private citizens will be rushed to print just to satisfy the thirst of the public who craves sensationalized material. I've seen it happen in the recent past with local news organizations running stories about individuals who show up on HPD arrest logs. Not sure how they consider this newsworthy (especially without knowing if there will even be charges filed by the prosecutor, an indictment by a grand jury, or a conviction beyond a reasonable doubt), but I'm sure the public gobbles it up.		
Name:	Email:	Zip:

Edward Fujioka	puunui@msn.com	96818-2792
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Sep 23, 2025 @ 10:46 AM
Name: Jason Hagiwara	Email: jhagiwara@kitv.com	Zip: 96813
Representing: KITV	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 24, 2025 @ 06:20 PM
Name: Gregory Misakian	Email: greg.misakian@sbcglobal.net	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 25, 2025 @ 01:06 AM
Testimony: I support Bill 46(25). HPD needs to utilize a two-channel system to address the concerns about privacy and personal information, which is what many large cities do on the mainland. HPD also needs to ensure they post accurate information pertaining to alleged crimes on their website and also convey proper and accurate information in press briefings. I have concerns regarding misinformation about the alleged suspect in the recent Kunia fire. I have not seen any evidence to show he started any fire, and in fact see evidence that supports another suspect in a dark colored sedan started a fire.		
Name: Lynn Kawano	Email: lynn.kawano@hawaiinewsnow.com	Zip: 96817
Representing: Hawaii News Now	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 25, 2025 @ 09:38 AM
Testimony: Oral testimony		
Name: Brenden Nakamine	Email: bnakamine@kitv.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: KITV	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 25, 2025 @ 11:06 AM
Testimony: I writing in support of Bill 46 to restore police scanner access to newsrooms. This issue is about public safety. That is our number one priority, as I'm sure it is to HPD and this committee. Giving "real time" access to incidents allows to inform the community as quickly as possible about dangers such as violent criminals on the loose and evacuations/road closures. Every second counts in situations like that. That is our sole reason for asking for access to live scanner traffic. We would		

never publically share any scanner recordings. It is simply for our newsgathering purposes so we can confirm information and relay it to viewers. In lieu of actually scanners, an appropriate alternative would be the "text alert" system HFD recently implemented. We receive incidents in "real time", which allows us to proactively confirm details and determine what is necessary to alert the community about. Having more access to information and more transparency from HPD only allows us, and them, to better serve our community and keep everyone safe.

Name: Lei Ui Kaholokula	Email: lkaholokula@kitv.com	Zip: 96813
Representing: KITV4 Island News	Position: Support	Submitted: Sep 25, 2025 @ 12:27 PM

Testimony:

As journalists, access to real-time police scanner traffic has been a long time critical tool in our ability to inform the public quickly, accurately, and with transparency.

Breaking news and public safety alerts are prime examples where scanner talk helps to give us a head start to verify details, deploy reporters, and provide essential context during fast-moving incidents.

We've seen how delayed information can cause confusion and a gap in communication when we operate in the dark -- putting public awareness and safety at risk.

We understand and respect the Honolulu Police Department's concerns about officer safety, victim privacy, and the potential for misinformation. These are valid issues in an evolving media and digital landscape.

With that said, journalists don't immediately broadcast unsubstantiated information.

As responsible journalists -- we're trained to carry out the necessary processes to verify information before it's shared with the public. And it's done with a cautious approach.

We're not asking for unrestricted access. We're asking for a seat at the table to find a solution that supports transparency, protects sensitive information, and serves the people of Hawai'i.

Because at the end of the day, a well-informed public is a safer public — and that's a goal we all share.

Aloha Chair Tulba and members of the Public Safety Committee

I oppose Bill 46 in its present language. To allow the media access to radio transmissions from Honolulu Police Dispatch could affect officer safety and compound crowd control. Currently HPD has a single channel for dispatching in each sector. Unlike EMS

and HFD that uses both dispatch and tactical channels. A unit is dispatched on the regular radio channel then switch to a tactical

channel for operations. This Bill allows media full access to all radio traffic on each sector/district and will hear Officer information,

names, addresses, caller names, phone numbers, social security numbers, birthdays etc. If HPD needs to add a tactical channel for

each sector/district will cost millions for portable and mobile radios. This bill has more questions than answers to the issue.

Issues as cost, Maintenance of radios, who will be assigned a radio, who pays for upgrades, broken or lost equipment, servers, setting

up text groups and interfacing with CAD/radio. Programs and servers. Thank you for allowing me to testify

Ed Fujioka

Retired EMS Communication Center Chief



**HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
BILL 46 TESTIMONY**

Jason Hagiwara, KITV Inc. President & General Manager
& Board Member, Hawaii Association of Broadcasters

Aloha Honorable Members of the Public Safety Committee,

I think the Honolulu Police Department and Media share a common interest of keeping the public aware of incidents that happen in our community, in the interest of safety. We both have a mutual duty to inform the public of danger, or safety concerns.

The two concerns that I have heard Honolulu Police Department leaders say is that they have a concern about Personally Identifiable Information being used on scanners and the potential for media interference with active police investigations. I would like to address both concerns.

For over 30 years of working in the news business, the unencrypted police scanner was a constant presence in newsrooms. In addition, while there has been no citing of specific incidents over that window that the PII was misused, we totally understand how important to protect individual private information is. We do not want or need that information to fulfill our duty to inform the public about the safety concerns.

The second concern is that media could interfere with active investigations. Yet, there have been no reports of media interference with police operations or investigations as it relates to sharing the public safety information. As media employers, we also have an obligation to keep our reporters out of harm's way and it impractical for us to be too close to any dangerous/active police situation. There is no evidence to support that this potential concern trumps the need for the accessible public safety information.

So what would media need to fulfill its duty? We need access to important public safety information in a real time way. Therefore, as a Honolulu media leader here, I support any solution that distributes ALL public safety incidents information in real time, less the Personally Identifiable Information. This would include:

- 1) Real-time distribution of all scanner-based information, minus the PII;
- 2) Address or specific location of where the incident is occurring;
- 3) Description of the incident...a shooting, an overturned gasoline truck, diverted roads during a fire, etc.
- 4) Any imminent safety concern

The importance of timely, transparent, and accurate reporting cannot be overstated. Allowing media access to all public safety incidents in Hawaii will provide critical information to the public, enhance perception of police transparency, and ensure that the media can serve its vital role in democracy.

I urge you to support this legislation and to recognize the benefits that it will bring to the people of Honolulu — both in terms of public safety and in terms of transparency.



Mahalo for reading.

Sincerely,

Jason Hagiwara
President & General Manager