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STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT**

*Ka 'Oihana Ho'okō Kānāwai*

715 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2457  
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT  
Before the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs  
Thursday, February 1, 2024; 2:00 p.m.  
State Capitol Conference Room 325, Via Videoconference  
Testifiers: Michael Vincent or Jared Redulla

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) **strongly supports**, House Bill 2457.

This Administration measure expands the requirements of section 353C-9, HRS, to require the Department of Law Enforcement to pursue and obtain accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. for all divisions and sections within the Department of Law Enforcement. The bill also creates the positions needed for the proper administration of CALEA accreditation and maintenance of that accreditation.

The Sheriff Division has been required to pursue CALEA accreditation since 2011 with the passage of Act 111, Hawaii Session Laws, 2011, which has been codified in §353C-9, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), which provides:

**[§353C-9] Department accreditation required.** The department shall pursue and obtain accreditation for the sheriff division from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc.

While CALEA accreditation is important, the DLE has determined that the requirement of §353C-9, HRS is insufficient for a state law enforcement agency and supports expanding the requirement for CALEA accreditation to all divisions and

sections within the DLE with nationally recognized standards that are the foundation for modern-day law enforcement agencies. For the DLE to be the law enforcement agency the Legislature and public expect, CALEA accreditation is essential.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

**HB-2457**

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 10:49:21 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/1/2024 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Charles Walton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this Bill because it will ensure that the Department of Law Enforcement carries out prior legislative intent under 353C-9 HRS directing that the Department of Public Safety, Sheriff Division seek and obtain accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). Expanding the scope of 353C-9 HRS to include all Law Enforcement Officers in the Department of Law Enforcement rather than just the Sheriff Division makes more sense than ever now that a criminal investigative component has been added to Internal Affairs Investigators and Narcotics Enforcement Investigators that already needed to be included in accreditation.

The four Hawaii County Police Departments have already obtained CALEA accreditation, as well as the University of Hawaii Campus Police. Our State Police agency needs to be accredited as well. Accreditation will require the State Department of Law Enforcement to maintain a high standard of "best practices" in law enforcement and community service as determined by nationally recognized experts in this field.

Past work on obtaining accreditation under the Department of Public Safety has resulted in improved policies and procedures which have been carried over to the Department of Law Enforcement. Obtaining CALEA Accreditation will allow the Department to continue to provide "Quality Service through Continuous Improvement".

Respectfully Submitted,

Charles "Scott" Walton