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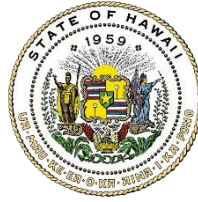
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January 31, 2026

SB 2518: RELATING TO ASSAULT AGAINST LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

Chair Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair Chris Lee and Members of the Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

The Office of the Public Defender (OPD) **opposes those parts of SB 2518** which seek to amend Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), section 707-712.5 (2)(b) by increasing the mandatory jail time as a condition of probation to that of six (6) months from thirty (30) days and setting a condition of probation of jail time of not less than one (1) year for a violation of the proposed new subsection (1)(c).

The OPDs opposition to these statutory changes is not meant in any way to diminish the sacrifices of law enforcement officers or the potential dangers in the performance of their duty, but instead is based in our belief that mandatory jail terms remove the necessary exercise of judicial discretion required in sentencing. Furthermore, mandatory sentencing only creates a need for greater litigation as it removes room for negotiations, and said increases only result in added financial and resource costs to those participants within the legal system including the judiciary, prosecutors, public defenders, court-appointed counsel and Dept. of Public Safety personnel. These added costs result in the need for additional resources to be allocated to these participants when trial judges currently have the discretion to sentence any person convicted of violating HRS section 707-712.5 to up to one year in jail as a condition of probation if it is necessary in any individual case. Thus, this measure only seeks to provide judges with what is already within their discretion, by removing their discretion to mete out said punishments in the adjudication of defendants so placed. A trial judge is in the best position to determine if a person needs to be incarcerated for a specific period and will

consider all the necessary mitigating and aggravating factors to craft a fair and just punishment. With due respect, prepackaged sentencing does not always fit every case.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2026**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 2518, RELATING TO ASSAULT AGAINST LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

DATE: Monday, February 2, 2026 **TIME:** 3:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 016

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Michelle M.L. Puu, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Fukunaga and Members of the Committee:

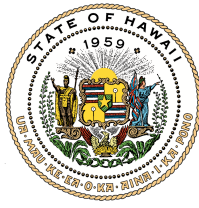
The Department of the Attorney General (Department) strongly supports this bill.

This bill refines the penalty structure for the offense of assault against a law enforcement officer in the first degree by differentiating penalties based on the severity of bodily injury sustained by the officer. The bill is intended to promote proportionality in sentencing and to deter future offenses.

This bill was submitted by unanimous agreement of the Hawaii Law Enforcement Coalition (LEC), whose membership includes the Attorney General, the Chief of Police and Prosecutor of each county, and the Director of Law Enforcement.

The Department respectfully requests the passage of this bill.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



MIKE LAMBERT
Director

ERNEST J. ROBELLO
Deputy Director
Administration

SYLVIA LUKE
LT GOVERNOR
KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
Ka 'Oihana Ho'okō Kānāwai
715 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

JARED K. REDULLA
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2518
RELATING TO ASSAULT AGAINST LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS
Before the Senate Committee on
PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
Monday, February 2, 2026, 3:00 PM
State Capitol Conference Room 016 & Videoconference
Testifier: Mike Lambert

Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) supports Senate Bill 2518. This bill establishes appropriate sanctions for the offense of assault against a law enforcement officer in the first degree.

Law enforcement officers face inherent and significant dangers while serving and protecting our communities. Every day, DLE's deputies and investigators place themselves in harm's way to maintain public safety, uphold the rule of law, and respond to volatile and unpredictable situations. In recent years, assaults against law enforcement officers have become increasingly frequent and severe, posing serious threats to officer safety and undermining respect for lawful authority.

Establishing clear and appropriate sanctions for assault against a law enforcement officer in the first degree is a necessary and critical step to address this troubling trend. This measure ensures that the legal consequences for such conduct reflect the seriousness of the offense and the heightened risk officers face when performing their

official duties. Meaningful penalties also serve an important deterrent function, discouraging violent acts against those tasked with protecting the public.

In addition to officer safety, law enforcement agencies nationwide are facing significant recruitment challenges, driven in part by declining interest in the profession, concerns about personal safety, and a lack of institutional support. Clear legislative action that affirms the value of law enforcement service and provides strong protections for officers can help restore confidence in the profession, signal public support, and encourage qualified individuals to consider careers in law enforcement.

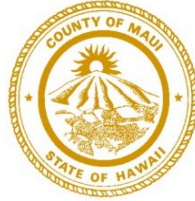
By strengthening statutory protections for law enforcement officers, SB2518 sends a clear and unequivocal message that violence against officers will not be tolerated. This measure equips the criminal justice system with the necessary tools to hold offenders accountable and reinforces the State's commitment to safeguarding the men and women who dedicate their lives to public safety.

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

RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

ANDREW H. MARTIN
Prosecuting Attorney

SHELLY C. MIYASHIRO
First Deputy Prosecuting Attorney



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TESTIMONY ON
S.B. 2518
RELATING TO ASSAULT AGAINST LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

February 1, 2026

The Honorable Carol Fukunaga
Chair
The Honorable Chris Lee
Vice Chair
and Members of the Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Maui respectfully submits the following comments **in support of S.B. 2518, Relating to Assault Against Law Enforcement Officers**. This bill helps protect the safety of law enforcement officers by allowing prosecution of offenders that recklessly cause serious or substantial bodily injury to the offense of Assault Against a Law Enforcement Officer in the First Degree and requiring that any probation sentence include a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment ranging from six months to one year.

We support this bill because it recognizes the dangers that law enforcement officers face every day for simply doing their job. We believe that this bill will send a message to Hawai'i law enforcement officers that they deserve our support by providing a significant penalty for assaults against law enforcement officers.

For these reasons, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Maui **supports S.B. 2518**. Please feel free to contact our office at (808) 270-7777 if you have any questions or inquiries. Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.



JOHN PELLETIER
CHIEF OF POLICE

POLICE DEPARTMENT

COUNTY OF MAUI

55 MAHALANI STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
TELEPHONE: (808) 244-6400
FAX: (808) 244-6411



WADE M. MAEDA
DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE

February 1, 2026

Honorable Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Honorable Senator Chris Lee, Vice Chair
and Members
Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
The Thirty-Third Legislature
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

**SUBJECT: Testimony in Support of S.B. 2518, Relating to Assault
Against Law Enforcement Officers.**

Dear Chair Fukunaga, Vice-Chair Lee, and Committee Members:

I am writing in support of SB 2518, which strengthens penalties for assaults against law enforcement officers. Throughout the nation and locally, data shows that assaults on police officers are increasing, creating serious risks for those who serve and protect our communities.

Assaults on law enforcement officers discourage new recruits and drive experienced officers away, undermining public safety and the ability of our communities to stay protected.

SB 2518 establishes clear and appropriate sanctions for assaults against officers, with accompanying penalties that reflect the severity of the injury caused. This bill makes assault against a law enforcement officer in the first degree a Class C felony and sets minimum sentencing requirements of five years' imprisonment or probation with a minimum sentence of six months in jail for most first-degree assaults.

This legislation protects our officers, deters violent attacks, and reinforces public trust in law enforcement. Passing SB 2518 is a critical step to safeguard the men and women who risk their lives to protect our communities.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass SB 2518.

Sincerely,

JOHN PELLETIER
Chief of Police

KELDEN B.A. WALTJEN
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

SHANNON M. KAGAWA
FIRST DEPUTY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



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OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 2518

A BILL FOR AN ACT
RELATING TO ASSAULT AGAINST LAW ENFORCEMENT
OFFICERS.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Senator Chris Lee, Vice Chair

Monday, February 2, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference
State Capitol Conference Room 229
415 South Beretania Street

Honorable Chair I, Vice-Chair Elefante and Members of the Committee on Transportation: The County of Hawai'i, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney submits the following testimony **in strong support** of Senate Bill 2518.

SB 2518 was drafted with the intent to amend HRS Section 707-712.5 and establish appropriate sanctions for the offense of assault against a law enforcement officer in the first degree.

SB 2518 aims to address the growing issue of assaults against law enforcement officers. As the legislature is aware, the safety of our law enforcement officers is paramount to the safety and security of our communities. This bill seeks to acknowledge and respond to the increasingly dangerous conditions under which law enforcement personnel perform their duties and to offer meaningful deterrence for those who engage in violent actions against officers.

The state of Hawai'i, like many jurisdictions across the United States, has seen a rise in the frequency and severity of attacks against officers, placing them at risk every day. As noted in the preamble, this escalation in assaults is not only a critical public safety issue but also undermines the ability to recruit and retain qualified law enforcement officers.

Officers face an environment of heightened risk, where assaults are no longer an isolated concern but an ongoing challenge that they must contend with daily. These assaults have a profound impact on the morale and well-being of our officers, as well as on the public trust in law enforcement agencies. If we are to maintain effective policing and safeguard the safety of our citizens, we must take immediate and concrete steps to address this escalating crisis.

One of the critical aspects of this bill is its potential to serve as a deterrent. When individuals know that attacks on law enforcement officers will result in substantial penalties, it is less likely that these violent incidents will occur. Furthermore, this bill provides hope for the continued recruitment and retention of law enforcement officers, who are critical to the safety of our communities. The assurance that the legislature stands firmly behind our officers will not only help maintain law and order but will also instill confidence in those considering a career in law enforcement.

SB 2518 establishes clear and meaningful penalties for those who assault law enforcement officers and provides much-needed reforms to ensure that our officers are better protected in their vital work. For the foregoing reasons, the County of Hawai'i, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney **strongly supports** the passage of Senate Bill 2518. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

SB-2518

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 2:30:34 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Reggee Bailey	Testifying for Honolulu Police Department	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello, my name is Officer R. Bailey and I am a resident of the Waianae area and also a Police Officer employed by the Honolulu Police Department. I am submitting this testimony in strong support of Bill SB2518, which would strengthen the penalties for assaulting a police officer in the state of Hawai‘i. As a police officer employed with the Honolulu Police Department for a period of 11 years I have personally been involved in multiple incidents where suspects had assaulted me or one of my beat partners while trying to effect an arrest even by the safest means possible. With life becoming harder for most people due to multiple reasons, we as police and peace officers feel the effects of these changes through peoples emotions while responding to sensitive incidents or even criminal incidents that are fueled by some type of emotion or survival instinct. Due to these examples, people will do anything they need to survive or fight even if that means assaulting a police officer, or that they just dont care. There was one incident that I had experienced while on the job where a husband and wife were arguing because she has a problem with drinking alcohol on multiple occasions and does not wish to seek help. The female was trying to leave her home that day by driving away in their family vehicle but was prevented by the husband who took the car keys away. This is what escalated the argument when myself and other officers arrived on scene. At that time, I spoke to the female in a nice calm demeanor just recommending that maybe she should go inside, get some rest, and hopefully tomorrow things would be better after the situation had calmed down. The female suspect then stared at me, glaring, and struck me one time in the face without provocation causing me pain and minor injury to my lip and jaw. As my fellow beat partners went to arrest her she resisted arrest as well, not having a care in the world and even challenging the other officers stating that she was going to "lick them" which in local terms means to fight them. For this incident in particular I feel that there was no justification on her end to assault me because there was no rhyme or reason to it. I understand that she was under the influence of alcohol but that should never be used as a excuse to display or use violent behavior against another. This case had occurred back in 2021 and till this day I have gone to court for this individual twice for this case and so far she has faced no jail time or actual charges for her crime against assaulting me. During one of my Grand Jury trials for this case, one of the jurors also attempted to ask me why was this girl not charged or sent to jail for this case yet, and why were we only talking about it two years later in 2023. Obviously regarding this type of cases or issues even members of the public begin to question why has nothing been done about this case yet and when has it become a normal thing to assault a police officers now days and get away with it. I was also made aware that this was not the females first time assaulting a police officer but in fact at that time it was the 3rd time doing so. From this point in time today, I was also made aware that she had assaulted officers another time which goes to show that this female suspect does not seem to care about the consequences to her

actions because she simply does not see any consequences regarding her conduct and behavior. With these types of results is what fuels officers to become disgruntled and upset with the very system that we are given the power to enforce or protect members of the general public and also ourselves as police officers. These are reasons as to why officers tend to use excessive force or even unnecessary force due to the understanding of "well if the courts wont do anything about it then I will" type of mentality or "well she keeps assaulting officers without any consequence so I'll just give it to her myself". That and the fact that by raising the penalty for anyone who assaults a police officer will show the general public that they should just comply with officers orders or request rather than feeling that they can assault an officer and feel as if theres little to no consequence for their actions. As a police officer, I understand that we can't get a perfect result of justice as far as criminals being charged for their crimes for multiple different reasons, but something like this should be addressed and better handled so that at the very least the people who are out there protecting our families and communities should also feel protected in return when they get assaulted just for something simple as trying to do their job. Passing this bill would show officers that the rise in assaults against law enforcement officers are being taken seriously and that the rise in assaults against officers is being heard and understood by the courts or politicians as the numbers keep going up every year due to multiple reasons or issues. I urge the committee to vote yes and please take my words and testimonies into consideration. Thank you for your time.

**DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO HO'OPI'I
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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STEVEN S. ALM
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
LOIO HO'OPI'I



THOMAS J. BRADY
FIRST DEPUTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
HOPE MUA LOIO HO'OPI'I

**THE HONORABLE CAROL FUKUNAGA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawai'i**

February 1, 2026

RE: S.B. 2518; RELATING TO ASSAULT AGAINST LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.

Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney of the City and County of Honolulu submits the following testimony in support of S.B. 2518.

S.B. 2518 increases the penalties for offenders who deliberately attack or seriously injure police officers engaged in their official duties. It provides a minimum six-month jail term, extended by up to a year where the injuries meet the standard thresholds for felony assault.

Assault against a law enforcement officer is an offense in two degrees. The second-degree grade applies to anyone who recklessly causes bodily injury to an on-duty officer.¹ This is a misdemeanor.² The first-degree grade is a felony.³ It applies to offenders who intentionally or knowingly cause bodily injury to the officer,⁴ as well as those who recklessly or negligently assault the officer with a dangerous instrument.⁵

S.B. 2518 would lengthen the mandatory minimum for these felonies. And in cases where the officer suffered serious or substantial bodily injury, it would allow prosecutors to charge this offense rather than ordinary assault.

¹ HRS § 707-712.6(1).

² *Id.* § 707-712.6(2).

³ HRS § 707-712.5(2).

⁴ *Id.* § 707-712.5(1)(a)

⁵ *Id.* § 707-712.5(1)(b).

Although Hawai‘i has relatively low levels of violent crime, our police are on the front lines against the criminal element. In 2024, more than three hundred police officers were assaulted in this state.⁶ Last year, the Honolulu Police Department observed a 20% increase in assaults on its officers between January and October compared to the same period the year before.⁷ Stronger penalties would deter potential offenders and meaningfully incapacitate those who attack officers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

⁶ FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, 2024 LEOKA Report, Table 86 (reporting data from the Honolulu Police Department and Kaua‘i Police Department); Hawaii Crime Dashboard, *Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted 2024*, available at <https://crimestats.hawaii.gov/>. (navigate to Special Topics and then LEOKA).

⁷ HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT, *HPD Police Chief Addresses Rise in Officer Assaults* (Oct. 9, 2025), available at <https://www.honolulu.org/hpd-police-chief-addresses-rise-in-officer-assaults>.

SB-2518

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 3:21:47 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cacique J Melendez	Testifying for SHOPO Hawaii	Support	In Person

Comments:

As a Police Officer in Hawaii for close to twenty years, I am grateful that someone had introduced a bill that will help keep officers safer or at least penalize those who choose to attack us with stronger penalties.

SB-2518

Submitted on: 1/30/2026 8:10:11 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Wiencek	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committeemembers,

This legislation is needed, pure and simple. I urge the committee to **SUPPORT** this bill.

SB-2518

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 3:32:42 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emma Tetzloff	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of SB2518

SB-2518

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 3:57:39 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elik Vodovoz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB2518, which addresses the critical need for appropriate sanctions for those who commit first-degree assault against our law enforcement officers.

Why This Bill is Necessary

Our law enforcement officers face increasingly dangerous conditions while serving the people of Hawaii. SB2518 is a necessary step in protecting those who protect us for several reasons:

* **Deterrence and Accountability:** By establishing clear, tiered penalties based on the severity of the bodily injury sustained, this bill sends a firm message that violence against public servants will not be tolerated.

* **Recruitment and Retention:** As Hawaii continues to face a shortage of law enforcement personnel, the safety of the working environment is paramount. Ensuring that the legal system provides justice for injured officers is vital for morale and for attracting new applicants to the force.

* **Safety of the Public:** When officers are sidelined by preventable injuries caused by intentional or reckless acts, our communities are left less secure. Protecting the physical integrity of our first responders directly correlates to the safety of our neighborhoods.

Conclusion

Law enforcement officers are often required to put themselves in harm's way to de-escalate volatile situations. When an individual intentionally or recklessly causes them serious bodily injury, the law must reflect the gravity of that offense. SB2518 provides the necessary legal framework to ensure accountability and honor the service of our officers.

I respectfully urge the committee to pass SB2518.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

SB-2518

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 7:51:33 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
henry lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Police officers place themselves in harm’s way every day to protect our communities. They respond to domestic violence calls, traffic accidents, mental health crises, and violent crimes—often with little information and significant personal risk.

Assaulting a police officer is not the same as assaulting a private citizen. Officers are legally obligated to place themselves in dangerous situations for the public good. When an individual chooses to assault an officer, they are attacking not just one person, but the rule of law and the safety of the entire community.

Stronger penalties serve three critical purposes:

First, **deterrence**.

Clear and meaningful consequences discourage violent behavior. When penalties are minimal or inconsistently enforced, they fail to deter those who might otherwise think twice before resisting or attacking an officer.

Second, **accountability**.

Assaults on officers often result in serious injuries, permanent disability, or death. The punishment should reflect the gravity of these crimes and ensure offenders are held appropriately accountable.

Third, support for public safety and **officer retention**.

The Honolulu Police Department is currently facing recruitment and retention challenges with over 400 vacancies. Officers cite lack of support and weak consequences for violence against them as contributing factors. Stronger penalties send a clear message that violence against police officers will not be tolerated and we support the men and women of law enforcement who run toward danger when others run away.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Henry Lee

SB-2518

Submitted on: 1/31/2026 9:53:29 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelcie Kahooilihala	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly believe in holding those who attack law enforcement officers accountable and keeping our officers and the public safe. This will help in deterring future attacks against officers who risk their lives daily.

SB-2518

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 12:10:12 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clifford Antonio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I submit this testimony in strong support of SB 2518, a measure that appropriately strengthens penalties for first-degree assaults committed against law enforcement officers.

Law enforcement officers across the State of Hawai‘i place themselves in harm’s way every day to protect our communities. Assaults on officers are not only attacks on individual public servants, but direct assaults on the rule of law, public order, and community safety. SB 2518 sends a clear and necessary message that violence against those sworn to protect the public will not be tolerated.

This bill makes several critical and well-reasoned improvements to existing law.

First, SB 2518 expands first-degree assault to include reckless conduct that causes serious or substantial bodily injury to a law enforcement officer. Officers are frequently injured during rapidly evolving and dangerous encounters where reckless actions can be just as devastating as intentional ones. Recognizing reckless conduct at this level appropriately reflects the real-world risks officers face and closes a gap that has previously allowed serious assaults to be under-penalized.

Second, the bill strengthens mandatory minimum incarceration for offenders granted probation, increasing the minimum jail term from 30 days to six months. A 30-day sentence does not adequately reflect the gravity of injuring a law enforcement officer nor does it serve as a meaningful deterr. Increasing the minimum period of incarceration reinforces accountability while still allowing judicial discretion through probation.

Finally, SB 2518 requires a minimum of one year of incarceration for assaults resulting in the most serious injuries. When an officer suffers severe or life-altering injuries in the line of duty, the consequences must reflect the seriousness of that harm. This provision appropriately balances public safety, deterrence, and justice for victims who may face permanent physical or psychological impacts.

SB 2518 is not about punishment for punishment’s sake. It is about deterrence, accountability, and affirming the value we place on the safety of those who serve our communities. Stronger

penalties help protect officers, discourage violent behavior, and ultimately enhance public trust and safety.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to pass SB 2518.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony and for your continued commitment to public safety.

Respectfully submitted,

Clifford Antonio

SB-2518

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 5:15:04 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charrise Wakita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Charrise Wakita and I am in support of Senate Bill 2518, which addresses assault against law enforcement officers by strengthening penalties for serious bodily injury inflicted on officers engaged in the performance of their duties. It is necessary to recognize the risks our law enforcement face daily. I believe that responsible persons should be held accountable for their actions. Officers put themselves in harm's way to serve and protect all residents of Hawaii. Enacted stricter penalties, the Legislature will send a clear message that violence against those dedicated to public safety will not be tolerated.

I urge the Committees to pas SB 2518.

Thank you.

Charrise Wakita

SB-2518

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 10:46:13 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tyler Ubias	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

SB-2518

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 12:13:57 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lily Villarin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

SB-2518

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 12:15:23 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Villarin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

SB-2518

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 12:40:25 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Revells	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose ths bill !

SB-2518

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 12:49:45 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Acquavella	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support! No one should be assaulting LEOs.

SB-2518

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 12:58:56 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Albertbraceros	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

SB-2518

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 1:19:06 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justin Dodo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a current LEO, victim of multiple assault police incidents as well as witnessed to them, I support this bill in seeking a steeper penalty for those offenders. There have been times where we would run into these offenders shortly after their initial arrest and often times as victims, we wouldn't get any further information on their release after committing a violent offense, especially one of that towards a law enforcement officer in the course of their duties.

SB-2518

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 1:21:57 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rustin Magliba	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

SB-2518

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 1:36:46 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandt Tsuha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The government needs to have a strong stance against violence against law enforcement doing their job. Offenders who use violence against police would surely use violence against citizens and the public needs to be protected and law enforcement supported.

SB-2518

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 1:57:43 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kazunari Fujimura	Testifying for HPD	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Fully support the bill

SB-2518

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 2:00:04 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kupono mata	Testifying for HPD	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this new bill. As a veteran Officer, I've been assaulted while on duty. In my experience majority of the public support the police department and their officers. But for the selective few who feel as if they can "take on" an officer and disregards their authority by being non compliant and combative needs to be addressed. Just in the recent past there was an incident in Hilo where two officers were mobbed by a group of people as they were just "doing their job" and responded to a call for service. They "mob" in that instance and in any other, where people become violent towards officers should 100% be held accountable, and not just get the common "slap on the wrist."

SB-2518

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 2:50:43 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Guy Yoshimoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB 2518 is simple. Put yourself in the other person's position....if it happened to you and the defendant got a slap on the wrist, how would you feel that they basically got away with it. They won't learn and will do it again if put in a similar situation. Victims get punished a second time protecting others. We should protect ones who protect us...plain and simple! We live in a different world or generation now and people need to be held accountable in every situation wether good or bad. We want Hawaii to be a safer state and what better way to support law enforcement starting with this! All it takes is a couple of defedents to get their new punishment especially if it hits the news and social media and people will learn from other mistakes. Thank you!

SB-2518

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 2:59:05 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alan J.D. Lu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello Sirs and Ma'ams,

Please help protect the members of the Honolulu Police Department by passing this bill into law. There are more people who seem ready to assault HPD Officers than ever before in my memory. Please keep our protectors safe.

Thank You,

Alan Lu

SB-2518

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 7:04:17 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chris Millen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am against any assault upon law enforcement 100%. However it is unclear what "appropriate" sanctions are, how are they defined, or who determines what is appropriate. I am confident there is existing law against assaulting law enforcement. Why is this not sufficient?

LATE

SB-2518

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 11:09:35 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
james smith	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Subject: Testimony on SB2518 – Protecting Officers While Protecting Good-Faith Citizens

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is James Smith, a resident of O‘ahu, Career & Technical Education teacher, and small business owner. I am writing in support of the intent of SB2518 relating to assault against law enforcement officers, while respectfully requesting a small but important amendment to ensure the bill strengthens officer safety without unintentionally criminalizing citizens who step in to help.

I fully agree with the Legislature’s findings. Our officers face real danger every day. Recruitment and retention are difficult, and meaningful deterrence for assaults on officers is necessary. Strong consequences for those who intentionally harm officers are appropriate and supported by our communities.

My concern is narrow and practical.

SB2518 expands the offense to include situations where a person “recklessly causes serious or substantial bodily injury” to an officer and imposes a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of one year with no possibility of suspension. In chaotic, fast-moving situations, this language could unintentionally apply to a good-faith citizen who is attempting to assist an officer during a struggle.

Consider a scenario where an officer is attempting to subdue a violent offender. A nearby citizen, acting out of concern and in good faith, steps in to help restrain the offender. In the struggle, the offender shifts, falls, or collides with the officer, and the officer is seriously injured. Under the current wording, the assisting citizen could be accused of “recklessly causing serious bodily injury” and face a mandatory one-year jail sentence, even though the citizen’s intent was to protect the officer.

Hawai‘i law already recognizes that citizens may lawfully assist officers and act to prevent crime under the justification statutes in Chapter 703, Hawaii Revised Statutes. However, SB2518 does not reference these protections, creating a potential conflict between existing justification laws and the new mandatory sentencing provisions.

This is not a hypothetical concern. In moments where officers need help the most, community members should feel empowered to assist, not fear felony charges for doing so.

I respectfully propose a simple clarifying amendment:

> “This subsection shall not apply to a person who, in good faith, renders assistance to a law enforcement officer and whose actions are otherwise justified under Chapter 703, Hawaii Revised Statutes.”

This language does not weaken the bill. It does not protect offenders. It simply ensures that well-intentioned citizens acting lawfully are not subjected to mandatory imprisonment when trying to help an officer in distress.

This amendment would:

- Preserve strong penalties for those who intentionally or recklessly harm officers
- Encourage community members to assist officers in emergencies
- Align SB2518 with existing Hawai‘i justification laws
- Prevent unintended prosecution of good Samaritans

SB2518 is an important step toward protecting our officers. With this small clarification, it can also preserve the vital partnership between law enforcement and the communities they serve.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to both public safety and fairness in our laws.

Respectfully,

James Smith
O‘ahu, Hawai‘i

LATE

SB-2518

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 12:44:26 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/2/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Atom Kasprzycki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill violates the US Constitution and the Second Amendment.