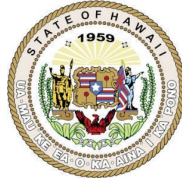


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
LAW ENFORCEMENT STANDARDS BOARD
KALANIMOKU BUILDING
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, #111B
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

ADRIAN DHAKHWA
CHAIR

MIKE LAMBERT
VICE-CHAIR

BOARD MEMBERS

SHERRY BIRD
DON FAUMUINA
HARRY KUBOJIRI
ANNE E. LOPEZ
REED MAHUNA
JOHN PELLETIER
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JASON REDULLA
GARY SUGANUMA
RUDY TAI
CRAIG TANAKA
RADE VANIC

VICTOR R. MCCRAW
ADMINISTRATOR

March 25, 2026

Chair David A. Tarnas
Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
State Capitol, Conference Room 325
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: In Support of SB 2519, HD 1 Relating to Law Enforcement

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Law Enforcement Standards Board (LESB) submits this testimony in strong support of SB 2519. This bill amends HRS sections 139-6 and 139-7 and seeks to extend the current deadline for mandatory certification for state and county law enforcement officers from June 30, 2026, to June 30, 2028.

The LESB was created in 2018 but remained largely unfunded and unstaffed. This resulted in the certification deadlines in sections 139-6 and 139-7 being extended from July 1, 2019, to December 31, 2021, June 30, 2024, to the current deadline of June 30, 2026.

The real difference this time is that the LESB expects to receive funding that will actually allow it to meet the proposed 2028 deadline. Currently staffed by only an administrator who was hired in 2024, the LESB anticipates finally having the capability to hire additional staff and the necessary funding to have a valid certification system in place by July 1, 2028.

Significantly, the failure to pass SB 2519 and extend the current deadline will jeopardize every criminal investigation and prosecution pending within the State and open law enforcement agencies to potential liability as a result of having law

enforcement officers who are not duly certified as required by law. A lack of certification provides a mechanism to question the validity of every law enforcement officer's employment and any official actions, i.e. arrests and investigations, taken in connection therewith.

For these reasons, the Hawaii Law Enforcement Standards Board strongly supports SB 2519 and asks that it move forward, effective upon approval.

Sincerely,

/s/ Adrian Dhakhwa
Chair, Hawaii Law Enforcement Standards
Board

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



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LAW ENFORCEMENT STANDARDS BOARD
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VICTOR R. MCCRAW
ADMINISTRATOR

March 31, 2026

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2519, HD1
RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT CERTIFICATION DEADLINES

TO:

House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Chair David A. Tarnas
Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe
Members of the Committee

FROM:

Victor McCraw
Administrator, Hawai'i Law Enforcement Standards Board

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee:

As the Administrator of the Hawai'i Law Enforcement Standards Board, I submit this testimony in strong support of SB 2519, HD1. SB 2519, HD1 amends sections 139-6 and 139-7, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, to extend the statutory certification deadline for state and county law enforcement officers from June 30, 2026, to June 30, 2028. SB 2519, HD1 does not change who is subject to certification, the qualifications required for certification, or the Board's authority and responsibilities under chapter 139. The measure extends the deadline so the certification requirement can be implemented through a fully functioning statewide program consistent with legislative intent.

Need for the statutory change

The June 30, 2026 statutory deadline cannot be met if the Board is to implement chapter 139 fully and properly. Although the Board has made progress in planning and development since administrative operations began in October 2024, the substantial remaining work necessary to implement statewide certification as required by chapter 139 cannot be completed before the current deadline. In addition, anticipated appropriations for necessary staffing and required infrastructure will not become available until after June 30, 2026. For these reasons, the statutory deadline must be extended to allow implementation consistent with legislative intent.

Support for SB 2519, HD1

Statewide certification under chapter 139 is a regulatory function that extends beyond issuing an individual credential. It requires a robust statewide program to establish and enforce minimum standards for employment, training, and professional conduct; to implement initial certification and continuing training requirements; to develop training standards and curriculum requirements; to receive, investigate, and resolve matters involving alleged violations of the Board's standards of professional conduct with due process; and to maintain the confidential and public records necessary to support these responsibilities. SB 2519, HD1 provides the statutory timing necessary for the Board to complete implementation and administer certification as intended under chapter 139.

Anticipated consequences without an extension of time

The current statutory deadline will take effect before the certification program is fully implemented. County and state law enforcement agencies and officers will face uncertainty about employment eligibility, compliance timelines, and certification status. This increases the risk of liability, litigation, and administrative disputes focused on certification compliance and processes, rather than on the underlying merits of cases and investigations. SB 2519, HD1 reduces that risk by aligning the statutory deadline with a realistic implementation timeline and supporting a stable transition to a fully functioning statewide certification program.

SUMMARY

Full implementation of chapter 139 requires substantial remaining work that cannot be completed before the current statutory deadline. The Board faces practical execution constraints, including budget cycle timing, procurement requirements, and completion of foundational work needed to establish statewide standards. Extending the deadline to June 30, 2028 aligns the statutory date with the scope of remaining implementation work and supports implementation consistent with legislative intent and recognized professional standards.

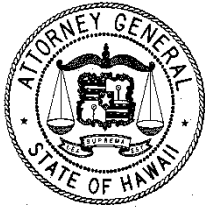
Victor McCraw, Administrator
Hawaii Law Enforcement Standards Board
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2519, HD1
March 31, 2026
Page 3

For these reasons, I respectfully support SB 2519, HD1.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Victor McCraw', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Victor McCraw
Administrator
Hawai'i Law Enforcement Standards Board



**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. 2519, H.D. 1, RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

DATE: Tuesday, March 31, 2026 **TIME:** 2:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 325

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Mark S. Tom, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Tarnas and Members of the Committee:

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

This bill amends sections 139-6 and 139-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to extend the law enforcement officer certification deadline from July 1, 2026, to July 1, 2028. Specifically, the bill delays the date on which the Law Enforcement Standards Board is required to issue certifications and after which certification is required for appointment or employment as a law enforcement officer.

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.

RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

ANDREW H. MARTIN
Prosecuting Attorney

SHELLY C. MIYASHIRO
First Deputy Prosecuting Attorney



DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF MAUI
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TESTIMONY ON
S.B. 2519 HD1
RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT

March 25, 2026

The Honorable David A. Tarnas
Chair
The Honorable Mahina Poepoe
Vice Chair
and Members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Maui respectfully submits the following comments **in support of S.B. 2519 HD1, Relating to Law Enforcement**. This bill supports public safety by allowing additional time for the Law Enforcement Standards Board to develop appropriate training certification for law enforcement officers.

We support this bill because we recognize the long-term benefits to both officer and community safety that flow from an appropriate training and certification process. We recognize the difficulties inherent in developing such a process given the evolving landscape of law enforcement standards, and believe that this extension will ultimately result in a safer community.

For these reasons, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Maui **supports S.B. 2519 HD1**. 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.

KELDEN B.A. WALTJEN
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

SHANNON M. KAGAWA
FIRST DEPUTY
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OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF **SENATE BILL 2519, HOUSE DRAFT 1**

A BILL FOR AN ACT
RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 31, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference
State Capitol Conference Room 325
415 South Beretania Street

Honorable Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Poepoe and Members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs. The County of Hawai'i, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney submits the following testimony **in support** of Senate Bill 2519, House Draft 1.

SB 2519, HD 1 establishes new deadlines for the completion of Law Enforcement Standard Board certification responsibilities as provided within HRS Section 139-6.

In addition to ensuring that all law enforcement officers have satisfactorily completed a basic program of law enforcement training, HRS Section 139-6 mandates training designed to minimize the use of excessive force, including legal standards, de-escalation techniques, crisis intervention tactics, mental health response, implicit bias, and first aid.

SB 2519, HD 1 was introduced as a part of the Hawai'i Law Enforcement Coalition ("LEC") Package. The LEC is comprised of the four county police departments and prosecuting attorneys offices, Department of Law Enforcement, and Department of the Attorney General. In order for a bill to be included within the LEC package a bill must be unanimously supported by all LEC member agencies.

For the foregoing reasons, the County of Hawai'i, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney **supports** the passage of Senate Bill 2519, House Draft 1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.