

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

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

S.B. NO. 2519, RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT.

**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

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Chair Fukunaga 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.

**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  
ELLIOT "KALANI" KE  
HARRY KUBOJIRI  
ANNE E. LOPEZ  
REED MAHUNA  
JOHN PELLETIER  
JARED REDULLA  
JASON REDULLA  
DON FAUMUINA  
GARY SUGANUMA  
CRAIG TANAKA  
RADE VANIC

**VICTOR R. MCCRAW**  
ADMINISTRATOR

February 2, 2026

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

TO:

Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair  
Senator Chris Lee, Vice Chair

FROM:

Victor McCraw  
Administrator, Hawai'i Law Enforcement Standards Board

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

I submit this testimony in strong support of SB 2519.

SB 2519 amends sections 139-6 and 139-7, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, to extend the statutory deadlines associated with law enforcement certification and employment eligibility. From an implementation standpoint, this measure aligns the certification deadline with the work the Law Enforcement Standards Board is required to complete under chapter 139 before certification can be administered statewide in a meaningful and consistent manner.

Chapter 139 assigns the Board responsibility for establishing minimum employment and training standards, issuing certifications, and maintaining a uniform certification framework applicable to all state and county law enforcement agencies. These responsibilities are administrative, regulatory, and statewide in scope. Certification under chapter 139 is not limited to issuing an individual credential. It requires administrative rules, standardized processes, and supporting systems so certification determinations are made consistently, documented accurately, applied uniformly across jurisdictions, and reported in a transparent manner that meets public expectations.

At present, the Board's administrative capacity is limited. Before certification deadlines take effect, the Board must complete foundational implementation work. This work includes adopting and operationalizing administrative rules. It includes establishing uniform certification and recordkeeping processes across agencies. It also includes implementing the systems needed to verify training completion and maintain certification status over time. Police certification under chapter 139 is a continuing regulatory function, not a one-time administrative act. It requires enforceable standards for basic recruit training involving hundreds of hours of approved and verified instruction, recurring annual or biannual in-service training that is developed, delivered, evaluated, and tracked for each officer, and clear codes of conduct with mechanisms for enforcement. These elements are necessary to obtain and maintain certification as a law enforcement officer. These steps are prerequisites to statewide certification.

SB 2519 does not alter certification standards or reduce requirements. It does not change who must be certified or what qualifications apply. It adjusts the timeline so that certification can be implemented after the foundational administrative work required by chapter 139 is completed.

Funding is also a sequencing reality. Any appropriations approved during the 2026 legislative session would not become available until July 1, 2026. The staffing and administrative capacity needed to fulfill the Board's statutory responsibilities depends on that funding. SB 2519 aligns the certification deadline with that timeline so that implementation can proceed in an orderly and practical manner.

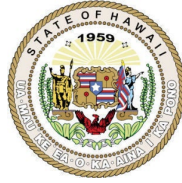
From an implementation perspective, SB 2519 supports the Legislature's intent by allowing the certification framework established in chapter 139 to be administered as a functioning statewide system rather than as a statutory deadline unsupported by administrative capacity.

For these reasons, I respectfully support SB 2519.

Respectfully submitted,

Victor McCraw  
Administrator  
Hawai'i Law Enforcement Standards Board

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**LAW ENFORCEMENT STANDARDS BOARD**  
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RADE VANIC

**VICTOR R. MCCRAW**  
ADMINISTRATOR

February 1, 2026

Chair Carol Fukunaga  
Vice Chair Chris Lee  
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs  
State Capitol, Conference Room 016  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Lee, 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 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 having the capability to hire additional staff and have the necessary funding to have a valid certification system in place.

Significantly, 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 a law enforcement officer's employment and any official actions taken in connection therewith.

LESB TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2519

February 1, 2026

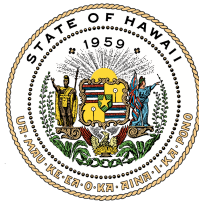
Page 2

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

Sincerely,

Adrian Dhakhwa  
Chair, Hawaii Law Enforcement Standards Board

**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, Hawaii 96813

**JARED K. REDULLA**  
Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2519  
RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT**

Before the Senate Committee on  
**PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

Monday, February 2, 2026, 3:00 PM

State Capitol Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

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

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) supports Senate Bill 2519. This bill establishes new deadlines for the completion of Law Enforcement Standards Board certification responsibilities. These new deadlines are critical to ensure the Board can effectively fulfill its mandated duties and meet its certification objectives in a timely manner.

The Law Enforcement Standards Board plays an essential role in establishing and maintaining professional standards across all law enforcement agencies in Hawaii. By implementing clear timelines for certification responsibilities, this bill provides necessary structure and accountability, which will enhance the Board's effectiveness and ensure progress toward the standardization of law enforcement practices throughout our state.

The establishment of concrete deadlines creates benchmarks for measuring the Board's progress and helps prioritize the important work of developing and implementing statewide standards. This approach will ultimately strengthen public trust in law

enforcement by demonstrating our commitment to professional excellence and accountability.

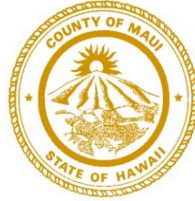
The Law Enforcement Standards Board has hired Victor McCraw as its administrator. DLE believes that the addition of a dedicated administrator provides the operational leadership and administrative capacity necessary to advance the Board's work and successfully meet the timelines established under this measure.

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



**DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
PHONE (808) 270-7777 • FAX (808) 270-7625

TESTIMONY ON  
S.B. 2519  
RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT

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. 2519, 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**. 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  
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**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. 2519, Relating to Law Enforcement**

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

I am writing in support of SB 2519, which establishes clear certification requirements for all law enforcement officers in Hawaii.

SB 2519 requires officers to complete training that not only meets basic law enforcement standards but also emphasizes minimizing excessive force, handling crises safely, understanding mental health issues, recognizing implicit bias, and providing first aid which would in turn strengthen public trust in law enforcement.

Candidates would also need to meet additional standards, including age, education, physical and mental fitness, citizenship, good conduct, moral character, and professional experience.

Those officers who meet these standards—or have completed equivalent training in another jurisdiction—will receive board certification. If this law takes effect, all law enforcement agencies throughout the state of Hawaii would be required to hire only certified officers, promoting uniform standards and accountability.

As a result, this bill strengthens public safety, raises professional standards for law enforcement, and ensures officers are prepared to serve responsibly and effectively.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass SB 2519.

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 2519**

#### A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT

#### 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 support** of Senate Bill 2519.

SB 2519 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 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. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

**SB-2519**

Submitted on: 1/30/2026 5:51:17 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Will Espero	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Aloha Senators,**

I am writing in support of SB2519 regarding statewide law enforcement standards. As the former chair of the Senate Public Safety, Intergovernmental Relations, and Military Affairs, I supported similar measures as this for our state.

This should be the last time this bill is extended because too much time has passed since the original legislation. The task at hand is not that difficult, and a dedicated board should be able to complete the task.

No more delays PLEASE!

Pass this legislation and let's improve the quality and our oversight of law enforcement and improve the quality of service for all Hawaii residents.

Thank you for your time,

Will Espero, Ewa Beach

Retired State Senator

**SB-2519**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 10:46:33 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tyler Ubias	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

**SB-2519**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 12:14:26 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lily Villarin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

**SB-2519**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 12:16:06 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michael Villarin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

**SB-2519**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 12:41:52 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
James Revells	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill !

**SB-2519**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 12:59:32 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Albertbraceros	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill



**SB-2519**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 1:24:50 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rustin Magliba	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

**LATE**

**SB-2519**

Submitted on: 2/1/2026 11:19:07 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
james smith	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Subject: Testimony in Support of S.B. 2519 with Request for Accountability and Implementation Plan

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of S.B. 2519 to extend the Law Enforcement Standards Board certification deadline from 2026 to 2028. This extension is necessary to prevent an unintended staffing crisis across our county police departments and state law enforcement agencies.

Without this extension, many currently serving officers who are trained, experienced, and actively protecting our communities would become ineligible to work due solely to a certification backlog and administrative capacity issue. That would lead to severe officer shortages, increased overtime costs, slower response times, and reduced public safety for our communities.

However, while this extension is the responsible and practical action, it also highlights a serious implementation problem that deserves examination.

The original 2026 deadline was set without a realistic assessment of the staffing, systems, and funding required for the Law Enforcement Standards Board to certify thousands of officers across multiple agencies. The Board, the departments, and the Legislature were all placed in a position where the timeline did not match operational reality.

As taxpayers and community members, we respectfully ask:

- What planning analysis was conducted when the 2026 deadline was established?
- What staffing and budget were allocated to the Law Enforcement Standards Board to accomplish this task?
- Why were capacity limitations not identified and addressed earlier?
- What specific changes are being made now to ensure that the same situation does not occur again in 2028?

This is not about assigning blame to individuals. It is about ensuring accountability in government planning and protecting both public safety and taxpayer resources.

The extension to 2028 should be accompanied by a clear implementation plan, including:

- Increased staffing or system improvements for the Law Enforcement Standards Board
- Benchmarks and reporting to the Legislature on certification progress
- Assurance that officers can meet standards without disrupting public safety coverage

The people of Hawai'i support professional standards for law enforcement. But those standards must be implemented in a way that is realistic, properly resourced, and transparent.

Please pass S.B. 2519, and also require a clear plan and reporting structure so this delay results in real progress rather than another extension in the future.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

James H. Smith

**LATE**

**SB-2519**

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 12:44:42 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Atom Kasprzycki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill violates the US Constitution and the Second Amendment.