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# HOUSE RESOLUTION

SUPPORTING HAWAII'S LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND GREATLY  
APPRECIATING THE SACRIFICES MADE TO PROTECT AND SERVE OUR  
COMMUNITIES.

1           WHEREAS, more than 2,700 law enforcement officers in the  
2 State risk their lives daily to serve and protect their  
3 communities; and  
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5           WHEREAS, the law enforcement officers of the State perform  
6 their difficult and dangerous job honorably and professionally;  
7 and  
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9           WHEREAS, dedicated efforts by law enforcement officers have  
10 successfully brought down the crime rate over the past decade,  
11 positioning the state of Hawaii as fifth in the nation for low  
12 violent crime rates according to U.S. News and World Report; and  
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14           WHEREAS, the environment for officers has become  
15 increasingly more hostile and their safety more precarious; and  
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17           WHEREAS, over a 170 years ago, the first Hawaii Police  
18 officer gave his life to ensure the safety of residents; and  
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20           WHEREAS, Hawaii Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation has  
21 recognized the continued sacrifice of our law enforcement  
22 professionals, noting that eighty-four men and women have died  
23 in the line of duty for the residents of Hawaii; and  
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25           WHEREAS, Hawaii experienced a recent tragedy when Maui  
26 police officer, Suzanne O, was killed in the line of duty in  
27 response to a shooting incident at the Pā'ia Sugar Mill off  
28 Baldwin Avenue on August 15, 2025; and  
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30           WHEREAS, law enforcement officers typically encounter  
31 between 400 and 600 traumatic events during their career as an



1 officer, compared to three or four traumatic events encountered  
2 by the average citizen; and

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4 WHEREAS, the unusually high number of traumatic events  
5 experienced by law enforcement officers has contributed to a  
6 fifty-four percent higher suicide rate among officers than among  
7 other workers in the United States; and

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9 WHEREAS, over the last decade, law enforcement officer  
10 vacancies have continued to grow leaving the City and County of  
11 Honolulu alone with over 400 vacant positions; and

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13 WHEREAS, the high vacancy rate has resulted in a  
14 dangerously low level of sworn officers able to serve and  
15 protect Hawaii's communities; and

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17 WHEREAS, supporting law enforcement officers with the  
18 equipment, training, and funding needed to protect communities  
19 from criminal violence has long received overwhelming public  
20 support across the political spectrum; now, therefore,

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22 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
23 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
24 of 2026, that these bodies support Hawaii's law enforcement  
25 officers and greatly appreciate the sacrifices made to protect  
26 and serve our communities; and

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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Thirty-third Legislature  
29 remembers and honors those officers and their families who have  
30 experienced death or injury in the line of duty; and

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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that increased measures be taken to  
33 maximize the safety and well-being of officers, including more  
34 policing personnel, improved training and equipment, tougher  
35 penalties for assaulting or killing a law enforcement  
36 professional, and increased mental health resources for  
37 officers; and

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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all levels of government shall  
40 ensure that law enforcement professionals receive the support  
41 and resources needed to keep the State safe; and



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Law Enforcement, Chief of Police of the Honolulu Police Department, Chief of Police of the Maui Police Department, Chief of Police of the Hawaii Police Department, and Chief of Police of the Kauai Police Department.

OFFERED BY:

  
MAR 16 2026

