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TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2321
RELATING TO THE UNIFORM CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT
Before the House Committee on
JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Tuesday, February 24, 2026, 2:00 PM
State Capitol Conference Room 325
Testifier: Jared Redulla

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

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) supports House Bill (HB) 2321, which proposes to update chapter 329, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to make it consistent with amendments in the Federal Controlled Substances Act, as required under section 329-11, HRS.

Hawaii law under section 329-11, HRS, mandates that the State's controlled substances schedules be updated to remain consistent with changes made at the federal level to the Federal Controlled Substances Act. House Bill 2321 fulfills this statutory obligation by aligning Hawaii's chapter 329, HRS, with the most recent federal amendments, ensuring that Hawaii's controlled substances laws remain current, accurate, and enforceable.

The DLE strongly supports this measure as it is essential for maintaining the integrity and effectiveness of Hawaii's controlled substances regulatory framework. When Hawaii's schedules fall out of alignment with federal law, gaps can emerge that may be

exploited by individuals seeking to manufacture, distribute, or possess substances that are controlled at the federal level but not yet reflected in state law. Keeping Hawaii's statutes consistent with federal amendments closes these potential loopholes and ensures that law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and the public have clear and accurate notice of which substances are regulated under Hawaii law.

Furthermore, alignment with the Federal Controlled Substances Act supports interoperability between state and federal law enforcement agencies, facilitating coordinated investigations and prosecutions. It also ensures that Hawaii does not inadvertently become a haven for controlled substances that have been newly scheduled or rescheduled at the federal level but not yet captured under state law.

The DLE recognizes the importance of proactively and consistently updating Hawaii's controlled substances schedules in accordance with federal law, as required by section 329-11, HRS. This bill represents sound public policy that strengthens Hawaii's ability to protect public health and safety, and the DLE is fully supportive of its passage.

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