



**WRITTEN 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, RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

DATE: Tuesday, March 3, 2026

TIME: 10:15 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 016

TESTIFIER(S): **WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY.**

(For more information, contact Mark S. Tom,
Deputy Attorney General, at (808) 586-1160)

Chair Rhoads 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
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
JUDICIARY

Tuesday, March 3, 2026, 10:15 AM
State Capitol Conference Room 016

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) supports Senate Bill 2519. This bill establishes new deadlines for completing 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 the necessary structure and accountability, enhancing the Board's effectiveness and ensuring 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 adding a dedicated administrator provides the operational leadership and administrative capacity needed to advance the Board's work and meet the timelines established under this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support 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 24, 2026

Chair Karl Rhoads
Vice Chair Mike Gabbard
Senate Committee on Judiciary
State Capitol, Conference Room 016
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: In Support of SB 2519 Relating to Law Enforcement

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, 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 unamended.

Sincerely,

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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
LAW ENFORCEMENT STANDARDS BOARD
KALANIMOKU BUILDING
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GARY SUGANUMA
CRAIG TANAKA
RADE VANIC

VICTOR R. MCCRAW
ADMINISTRATOR

March 3, 2026

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

TO:

Senate Committee on Judiciary
Chair Karl Rhoads
Vice Chair Mike Gabbard
Members of the Committee

FROM:

Victor McCraw
Administrator, Hawai'i Law Enforcement Standards Board

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, 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. SB 2519 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 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, any appropriations enacted during the 2026 legislative session do 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

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 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 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
March 3, 2026
Page 3

For these reasons, I respectfully support SB 2519.

Respectfully submitted,

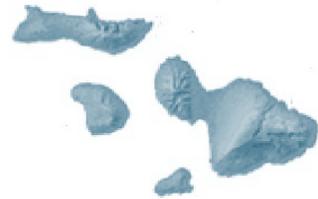
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Victor McCraw". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Victor McCraw
Administrator
Hawai'i Law Enforcement Standards Board

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

March 1, 2026

The Honorable Karl Rhoads
Chair
The Honorable Mike Gabbard
Vice Chair
and Members of the Committee on Judiciary

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, 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.

KELDEN B.A. WALTJEN
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

SHANNON M. KAGAWA
FIRST DEPUTY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



655 KILAUEA AVENUE
HILO, HAWAII 96720
PH: (808) 961-0466
FAX: (808) 961-8908

74-675 KEALAKEHE PARKWAY
KAILUA-KONA, HAWAII 96740
PH: (808) 322-2552
FAX: (808) 322-6584

64-1067 MAMALAHOA HIGHWAY, C-3
KAMUELA, HAWAII 96743
PH: (808) 887-3017
FAX: (808) 887-3016

OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 2519

A BILL FOR AN ACT
RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at 10:15 a.m.
Via Videoconference
State Capitol Conference Room 016
415 South Beretania Street

Honorable Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee on Judiciary. 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.



POLICE DEPARTMENT COUNTY OF KAUA'I



DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR
REIKO MATSUYAMA, MANAGING DIRECTOR

ELLIOTT K. KE, CHIEF OF POLICE
MARK T. OZAKI, DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE

March 2, 2026



The Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
And Honorable Members of the Committee on Judiciary
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 2519, Relating to Law Enforcement

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Kaua'i Police Department, I am submitting testimony in SUPPORT of SB 2519, which extends the statutory deadlines for certification and training requirements for law enforcement officers under the Law Enforcement Standards Board.

SB 2519 recognizes the challenges law enforcement agencies face in meeting the current deadline of June 30, 2026, for board-approved basic training, certification, and related requirements under Hawai'i Revised Statutes §§ 139-6 and 139-7. By extending this deadline to June 30, 2028, the bill provides critical flexibility for departments statewide to ensure that officers can complete required training – including instruction designed to minimize excessive force, enhance de-escalation skills, strengthen crisis intervention, and address implicit bias – in a manner that upholds quality, readiness, and community expectations.

This extension supports ongoing efforts to recruit and retain qualified law enforcement personnel while maintaining high standards of professionalism and public trust. It also allows time for training programs to be effectively implemented and evaluated, ensuring that certification requirements are met in a way that enhances officer preparedness and safety for the communities we serve.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask the Committee to pass SB 2519. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Elliott K. Ke
Chief of Police
Kaua'i Police Department

My name is Catherina Gaines, and I am a Waikīkī resident submitting testimony in support of SB2591.

For years, my family and neighbors have been subjected to regularly scheduled overnight garbage collection noise during what should be designated quiet hours, often between 2:30a.m. and 6:00 a.m. The resulting banging, slamming, reversing alarms, and engine noise repeatedly disrupt sleep and significantly impact residents' health and quality of life.

Despite outreach by many of my neighbors' and myself, meetings, mapping exercises, interdepartmental discussions, and assurances that the matter was being worked on, residents continue to experience the same overnight disturbances today. The City's response has primarily remained exploratory and procedural rather than corrective. Discussions have continued, but meaningful operational changes have not followed. Recently, residents were asked to identify the color of garbage trucks responsible for disturbances—requiring those being awakened in the middle of the night to conduct investigative work that the operators and regulators themselves should already be capable of performing through routing, dispatch, and service records.

The problem has been thoroughly documented and widely supported by Waikīkī residents seeking relief. Despite consistent outreach of concern and stated interest from multiple City officials, no meaningful action has materialized. So many meetings, listening sessions, and assurances of future coordination, while the underlying problem remains unchanged.

Waikīkī residents understand that urban living comes with noise. We accept tourism activity, traffic, and nightlife as part of living in a vibrant community. What is unreasonable is the intentional scheduling of industrial-scale operations during what should be designated quiet hours, particularly when the impacts have been clearly demonstrated and repeatedly communicated to City leadership.

SB2591 represents a shift from discussion to accountability. The issue before the Council is no longer whether the problem exists—it clearly does. The question is whether the City will finally establish enforceable standards that prioritize residents' health, sleep, and quality of life.

This bill is not about eliminating garbage collection or creating hardship for operators; it is about restoring balance between essential services and the basic right of residents to sleep during what should be designated quiet hours. When a problem has been studied repeatedly but remains unresolved, continued process becomes indistinguishable from inaction. SB2591 provides the Council an opportunity to demonstrate that persistent community engagement leads to real outcomes—not endless discussion—and that City government responds when residents speak clearly and consistently.

I respectfully urge the Council to support SB2591 and take meaningful action to resolve an issue that has persisted for years despite sustained resident participation and clear notice to City leadership.

Thank you

SB-2519

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 6:05:20 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Johnnie-Mae L. Perry | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support

2519 SB RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT.

SB-2519

Submitted on: 2/27/2026 8:46:08 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Victor K. Ramos | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

OPPOSE this bill. Said law was passed a number of years ago when the Legislature were advised that all departments were certified after meeting national standards via CALEA process. Maui PD being the first to acquire same. And still, years later, this board has failed to produce any workable outline. Stop wasting time and money and dissovle this proposal by acknowledging and accept the CALEA certifications obtained by the various county and state law enforcement agencies as THE standard.

SB-2519

Submitted on: 2/27/2026 9:23:48 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Matt Wong | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I have been a resident of 222 Lili‘uokalani Avenue since 2009.

For approximately the past three years, residents in our building have been subjected to repeated early-morning disturbances caused by commercial garbage collection. At least twice per week, trucks begin operating before 5:00 a.m. The noise is not brief or incidental, it typically lasts between 30 minutes to an hour and includes prolonged hydraulic hissing, repeated backup alarms, engine revving, and the slamming and banging of dumpsters.

This has become a chronic disruption to basic quality of life. Residents are routinely awakened well before sunrise, with no reasonable opportunity for rest. For many of us who work full-time, care for families, or have health considerations, this ongoing disturbance is not merely inconvenient, it is harmful.

In addition to the excessive noise, smaller back-loading trucks have been observed speeding along Kūhiō Avenue, making illegal U-turns, and at times driving on the wrong side of the road. These actions create unnecessary safety risks for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers in an already dense residential and visitor corridor.

It is difficult to understand why residents in this community are expected to absorb this level of disruption and risk on a recurring basis. Fair and consistent enforcement of noise ordinances and traffic laws should apply equally in residential neighborhoods, including those in mixed-use and visitor-dense areas.

I respectfully ask the Legislature to review current policies and enforcement mechanisms regarding early-morning commercial waste collection and to ensure that residential communities are protected from excessive disturbance and unsafe driving practices.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

SB-2519

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 8:41:50 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Stephanie Austin | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

This bill should not be postponed! There needs to be accountability and transparency in the operations of our police force- sooner rather than later!

SB-2519

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 11:29:20 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/3/2026 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Valerie Weiss | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am opposing this bill.