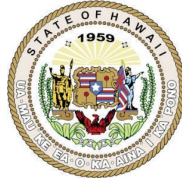


**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR



**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  
JARED REDULLA  
JASON REDULLA  
GARY SUGANUMA  
RUDY TAI  
CRAIG TANAKA  
RADE VANIC

**VICTOR R. MCCRAW**  
ADMINISTRATOR

March 16, 2026

Chair Jackson D. Sayama  
Vice Chair Mike Lee  
House Committee on Labor  
State Capitol, Conference Room 309  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: In Support of SB 2519 Relating to Law Enforcement

Chair Sayama, 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 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

March 16, 2026

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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**  
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JASON REDULLA  
DON FAUMUINA  
GARY SUGANUMA  
CRAIG TANAKA  
RADE VANIC

**VICTOR R. MCCRAW**  
ADMINISTRATOR

March 19, 2026

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

TO:

House Committee on Labor  
Chair Jackson D. Sayama  
Vice Chair Mike Lee  
Members of the Committee

FROM:

Victor McCraw  
Administrator, Hawai'i Law Enforcement Standards Board

Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Lee, 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, 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**

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 19, 2026  
Page 3

For these reasons, I respectfully support SB 2519.

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

**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 House Committee on  
LABOR

Thursday, March 19, 2026, 9:35 AM  
State Capitol Conference Room 309  
Testifier: Mike Lambert

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

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) supports Senate Bill 2519. This bill amends the Hawaii Revised Statutes to extend the deadline for completing Law Enforcement Standards Board (LESB) certification responsibilities from June 30, 2026, to June 30, 2028. It also updates the requirements for the appointment and employment of law enforcement officers across various state departments.

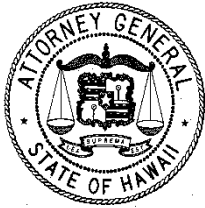
The DLE recognizes that the Law Enforcement Standards Board plays a critical role in establishing and maintaining the professional standards that govern law enforcement officers throughout the State of Hawaii. The work of the LESB, which includes developing and implementing officer certification requirements, is complex, far-reaching, and essential to ensuring that law enforcement officers serving our communities meet the highest standards of competence, character, and professionalism.

Extending the certification deadline from June 30, 2026, to June 30, 2028, is a practical and necessary measure. As previously acknowledged in related legislative discussions,

the LESB has been building its own staff and infrastructure to carry out its statutory responsibilities. Given the scope of the Board's certification mandate and the number of law enforcement officers and agencies across the State that must come into compliance, a two-year extension provides the LESB and all affected agencies with the time needed to fully and properly implement the certification framework without compromising the integrity of the process.

Furthermore, the updates to appointment and employment requirements for law enforcement officers across various state departments reflect a continued commitment to ensuring that all officers serving the public are held to consistent, rigorous standards statewide. The DLE views this measure as an important step in supporting the LESB's ongoing work and reinforcing the benchmarks necessary to successfully accomplish the Board's mission.

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



**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:**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LABOR

**DATE:** Thursday, March 19, 2026                      **TIME:** 9:35 a.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 309

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

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Chair Sayama 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.

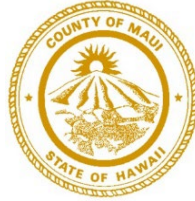
This bill was submitted by unanimous agreement of the Hawaii Law Enforcement Coalition (LEC), whose membership includes the Attorney General, the Chief of Police and Prosecutor of each county, and the Director of Law Enforcement.

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  
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 17, 2026

The Honorable Jackson D. Sayama  
Chair  
The Honorable Mike Lee  
Vice Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Labor

Chair Sayama, 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 also 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



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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 LABOR  
Rep. Jackson D. Sayama, Chair  
Rep. Mike Lee, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 19, 2026 at 9:35 a.m.  
Via Videoconference  
State Capitol Conference Room 309  
415 South Beretania Street

Honorable Chair Sayama, Vice-Chair Lee and Members of the Committee on Labor. 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

**RUDY TAI**, CHIEF OF POLICE  
**MARK T. OZAKI**, DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE

March 18, 2026

The Honorable Representative Jackson D. Sayama, Chair  
And Honorable Members of the Committee on Labor  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

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

Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Lee, 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 and certification in accordance with board standards 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,

Rudy Tai  
Chief of Police  
Kaua'i Police Department