



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE, 2019**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 952, RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT STANDARDS BOARD.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

DATE: Tuesday, February 5, 2019 **TIME:** 2:05 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 325

TESTIFIER(S): Clare E. Connors, Attorney General, or
Lance Goto, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General supports this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to clarify the Law Enforcement Standards Board ("the Board") membership requirements to facilitate participation and representation, to enable the Board to research the impact of uniform standards, certification, and training requirements on existing legal requirements, to establish new and more realistic deadlines for the completion of the Board's significant responsibilities, and to provide appropriate and necessary funds and resources to enable the Board to accomplish its mission.

The Board met, discussed its duties and responsibilities, considered what it needs to accomplish its mission, and concluded that this bill is necessary for it to move forward.

The Board is responsible for establishing minimum standards for employment as a law enforcement officer, and to certify persons qualified as law enforcement officers. It is also responsible for establishing minimum criminal justice curriculum requirements for basic, specialized, and in-service courses and programs for the training of law enforcement officers. It must consult and cooperate with the county and state, universities and colleges, and other institutions, concerning the development of law enforcement officer training schools and programs. The Board is also responsible for regulating and enforcing the certification requirements of law enforcement officers.

These are important and substantial duties that require evaluation to ensure that existing legal obligations are not compromised. Before imposing new standards impacting the employment of law enforcement officers, the Board must consider collective bargaining and other employment requirements. At a minimum, the Board must evaluate how probationary periods, training requirements (i.e., the types of training, the number of hours of training, and the availability of training facilities), and the issuance, suspension, and revocation of certifications will impact obligations already established by law.

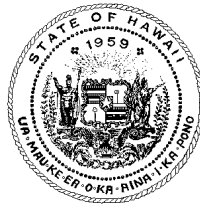
Increasing the size of the board and allowing ex-officio members to use designees will expand the perspective of the board while increasing its operational flexibility.

Collective bargaining and employment laws and rules dictate various aspects of a law enforcement officer's career from start to finish. Explicitly authorizing the board to study and evaluate these laws, rules, and agreements will allow the board to establish standards, certifications and training requirements in a purposeful and intentional manner.

A proper study and evaluation takes time and resources; therefore, certain aspects of the new chapter established by Act 220 should take effect on July 1, 2023 and an increased amount should be appropriated to fund dedicated staff.

The Department respectfully requests that this measure be passed.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

NOLAN P. ESPINDA
DIRECTOR

Maria C. Cook
Deputy Director
Administration

Jodie F. Maesaka-Hirata
Deputy Director
Corrections

Renee R. Sonobe Hong
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 952
RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT STANDARDS BOARD.

By

Nolan P. Espinda, Director
Department of Public Safety

House Committee on Judiciary
Representative Chris Lee, Chair
Representative Joy A. San Buenaventura, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 5, 2019; 2:05 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Chair Lee, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) supports House Bill (HB) 952, which clarifies membership and certain powers and duties of the Law Enforcement Standards Board, establishes new and more realistic deadlines for the completion of board responsibilities, and provides appropriate funds and resources to enable the board to accomplish its mission.

PSD supports the proposed amendments in Section 1, which will expand the experience and perspective of the Board while increasing its operational flexibility. The amendment in Section 3 would give the Board the authority to conduct its own studies, as well as, consider the study conducted by the Legislative Reference Bureau under Act 124 (2018), which examined operational, administrative, fiscal, personnel, legal, and other issues associated with consolidation of some state law enforcement agencies.

PSD supports the extended enforcement date to the year 2023 to allow the Board to effectively and comprehensively determine what is needed to comply with the

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House Committee on Judiciary
February 5, 2019
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prescribed duties, including the impact of requirements and conditions on collective bargaining rights and evaluating existing training facilities, as well as, new proposed facilities to effectively evaluate training requirements for certification.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR

SUSAN BALLARD
CHIEF

JOHN D. McCARTHY
JONATHAN GREMS
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE SG-SK

February 5, 2019

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
and Members
Committee on Judiciary
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 325
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Lee and Members:

Subject: House Bill No. 0952, Relating to Law Enforcement Standards Board

I am Scott Goeas, Captain of the Training Division, of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD supports the passage of House Bill No. 0952, Relating to Law Enforcement Standards Board. This bill will add needed flexibility to board member participation and availability, improve continuity among the board, and improve the conditions for the overall success of the board. Additionally, extending the effective date to July 1, 2023, provides a more realistic timeframe for the implementation and success of the board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Goeas", is written over a horizontal line.

SCOTT GOEAS, Captain
Training Division

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Ballard", is written over a horizontal line.

SUSAN BALLARD
Chief of Police

HB-952

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 8:47:14 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/5/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Urasaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-952

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 12:54:44 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/5/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Still strongly believe that said board not needed. Hoping one day, our Leislature will harken to the hard earned advise frof LEOS.