

GM-562

Submitted on: 4/11/2022 8:09:38 AM

Testimony for PSM on 4/12/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gigi Morita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee Members,

I strongly support the confirmation of Laxmi A. Dhakhwa.
Mahalo,

Gigi Morita

GM-562

Submitted on: 4/8/2022 9:37:09 PM

Testimony for PSM on 4/12/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley M. Tanaka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support (Laxmi) Adrian Dhakhwa's confirmation as a member of the Law Enforcement Standards Board ("LESB").

I have had the privilege of knowing Adrian for the past ten years. I am currently a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney ("DPA"). I am submitting this supporting testimony in my personal capacity.

When I met Adrian, he was a supervising DPA: the Team Captain for the felony trial team that appeared before the Honorable Colette Y. Garibaldi. Even though I was just a judicial extern for Judge Garibaldi at the time, Adrian was always courteous to me. He was consistently professional yet approachable, never abrupt nor dismissive. I became a DPA three months later and while Adrian was never my supervisor, he became both a mentor and a friend. I am grateful that he always took the time to answer my questions, give constructive feedback or just simply talk to me. To this day, although we no longer work at the same office, I am grateful to still consider him a mentor and a friend. His intelligence, legal knowledge, work ethic and dedication to public service all make him more than qualified to serve on the LESB. Furthermore, his lack of arrogance, ability to work with various members of the community and his strong sense of fairness would make him an asset to the LESB.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Adrian.

Cheuk Fu Lui
CF.Lui@outlook.com
(808) 223-3494

Before the Senate Committee on Public Safety,
Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

On Measure GM 562 –
Confirmation of Laxmi Adrian Dhakhwa to LESB – **Written Testimony in Strong Support**

Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

I write in **STRONG SUPPORT** for the confirmation of Laxmi “Adrian” Dhakhwa to the Law Enforcement Standards Board (“LESB”).

It has been a tremendous privilege to work with, and learn from, Adrian. I have known Adrian for more than 10 years, as my supervisor, as a colleague, and as a friend. Adrian is well-known to be an extremely competent, fair, and diligent prosecutor. I have seen firsthand how diligent and prepared Adrian is for each and every case that he investigates and prosecutes. Coupled with his years of experience, Adrian is uniquely qualified to serve on LESB because he is intimately familiar with law enforcement procedures and standards, but without being a part of the “culture” or “the thin blue line”. Having practiced as a state-wide prosecutor, as opposed to a county prosecutor, Adrian has experience across all agencies in this State as well and the nuances between them.

Most importantly, Adrian is fair and very diligent. Adrian is more than capable to analyze the facts, objectively apply those facts, and make fair recommendations. His reputation of being fair and diligent will not only make him an excellent board member, but it will also bring credibility to the board.

Adrian is well-qualified to serve on LESB. His experience and capabilities will be great assets for the board. I strongly support the confirmation of Adrian to LESB. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,


Cheuk Fu Lui

GM-562

Submitted on: 4/8/2022 6:03:55 PM

Testimony for PSM on 4/12/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Kelly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This testimony is for Laxmi Adrian Dhakhwa for confirmation to the Law Enforcement Standards Board.

My name is Robert Kelly and I have known Laxmi for over 25 years, starting in 1994 at Whitman College where we both received our undergraduate degrees.

At Whitman College, Laxmi displayed a strong moral and ethical standard and I have observed this in his academic, professional, and personal life during and after his time there. He displayed an interest in promoting fairness and equity in society from very early on. He has always been interested in helping those in need. As a health care professional, I am surrounded by many caring people on a daily basis, and I see many of these same caring traits such as empathy, compassion, and a desire to better society in Laxmi.

As someone who has known him personally for so long, I believe him to be a trustworthy and dependable individual who would work tirelessly to ensure the best outcome for the state of Hawaii and its citizens.

He has always taken a measured and fair approach to difficult questions and challenges. I have observed in him a considerate and respectful approach to communicating with people from different positions and from people who hail from many different backgrounds. He is highly adept at understanding different cultures and he has always demonstrated a desire to see different perspectives to help him achieve the best and most equitable outcome.

He is hard working and passionate about this position. In my academic and personal discussions with him over the years, I can testify to his strong moral values and his keen understanding of

law enforcement from his professional career. I would like to strongly recommend him for this position on the Law Enforcement Standards Board.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robert H Kelly

April 6, 2022

Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara
Chair, Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Law Enforcement Standards Board Nominee L. Adrian Dhakhwa

Dear Senator Nishihara,

I am writing in support of Mr. L. Adrian Dhakhwa's appointment to the law Enforcement Standards Board.

I previously worked with Mr. Dhakhwa at the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney for the City and County of Honolulu and can attest to his exceptional character and competence. Mr. Dhakhwa consistently elevates those around him by leading through example. He is a highly respected practitioner within the criminal justice system, and I believe I speak for all that know him when I say that he will be an indispensable asset if afforded the opportunity to serve on the Law Enforcement Standards Board.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of Mr. Dhakhwa's nomination.

With gratitude and aloha,


RJ Brown

GM-562

Submitted on: 4/11/2022 9:30:16 AM

Testimony for PSM on 4/12/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Stacey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the Committee,

I write in my personal capacity in support of Adrian Dhakhwa's nomination to the Law Enforcement Standards Board. I have known Adrian since we worked together at the Honolulu Prosecutor's office, and I currently work with him at the Department of the Attorney General. I have always known him to be diligent, honest, and honorable. As prosecutors, we have the honor of working with respectable law enforcement officers, but we also realize that there are times when certain members of law enforcement need to be held accountable. I am quite confident, knowing Adrian as well as I do, that he is experienced, knowledgeable, diligent and skilled enough to do a great job. Thank you.



MYLES S. BREINER

1003 Bishop Street, Suite 2150
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Tel: (808) 526-3426
Fax: (808) 521-7680
e-mail: myles@breinerlaw.net
Web: hawaiiicriminaldefense.net

April 8, 2022

SENATOR CLARENCE K. NISHIHARA, Chair
SENATOR LYNN DECOITE, Vice Chair
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
415 South Beretania Street, Conference Room 229
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: *Laxmi Dhakhwa (GM 562), Letter in support of confirmation to the Law
Enforcement Standards Board*

Dear Senators and Committee members:

We have the pleasure of writing this letter strongly supporting Laxmi Dhakhwa (“Mr. Dhakhwa”), as a Gubernatorial Nominee to the State of Hawaii Law Enforcement Standards Board (the “LESB”). We write to highlight three facets of Mr. Dhakhwa’s background and character to assist you in your deliberations on his nomination.

First and foremost, Mr. Dhakhwa has *extensive* experience in law enforcement, as he has essentially been a career prosecutor since 2001. He has become intensely familiar with our criminal laws, procedure, and law enforcement polices and personnel during this time. He would bring a wealth of institutional knowledge to the LESB without question.

Second, his career as a prosecutor has tasked him with prosecuting police officers for criminal offenses and oppositely private citizens who injured police officers, including those who have caused their death. In addition, he has reviewed thousands of police encounters within our community through the reports and cases that have been assigned to him. This previous understanding of where police officers meet the public would prove such a valuable viewpoint to the LESB.

Third, Mr. Dhakhwa is an honest man without any guile. This is a reputation he has amongst his prosecutorial peers and the criminal defense bar. This also means that his representations carry honesty and trustworthiness. If the Senate confirms him, we firmly believe that Mr. Dhakhwa will serve with impartiality in his role. Respect for the law and law enforcement is encouraged by those who command the same, and Mr. Dhakhwa certainly does.

SENATORS C. K. NISHIHARA and L. DECOITE

April 8, 2022

Page 2

Accordingly, we wrote in unison to advocate for his confirmation to the LESB.

Very truly yours,



MYLES S. BREINER

KYLE T. DOWD

SEAN FITZSIMMONS

GM-562

Submitted on: 4/8/2022 6:13:07 PM

Testimony for PSM on 4/12/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linh Lopez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senator Nishihara,

I am writing in favor of confirming Mr. (Laxmi) Adrian Dhakhwa to the Law Enforcement Standards Board. I have known Adrian for over 30 years, since our high school days at William McKinley High School. Over the course of the past 30 years, I've had the privilege of seeing Adrian grow from the smart and hardworking teenager he was, to the still ever hardworking and caring Husband and Father he is today.

More importantly to this matter at hand, as friends, I've had the opportunity to engage in many discussions and discourses at bbqs, birthday parties, and other events, where I've been able to see and better understand first hand the type of person he is, and his genuine character. What I've come to know of Adrian is that he is not only extremely smart, logical and honest, but also very measured and fair in his thought process. He is not one to rush to judgement, but rather takes in as much information as he can, and reserves opinion or judgement (if any) until he has the full picture. These are the qualities that I would hope and want for any LESB Member to have.

Above all this, what impresses me most about Adrian is his heart and his determination to keep our islands safe and make it a better place for his kids and the next generation. I sense in him a very genuine desire to serve his community and society. For that these reasons, I firmly believe he would make a great board member and a positive addition to the LESB.

Sincerely,

Linh Lopez

April 9, 2022

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara
Chair, Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Appointment of Laxmi Adrian Dhakhwa to the Law Enforcement Standards Board

Senator Nishihara:

My name is Edward K. Harada, and I am writing to support the appointment of Adrian Dhakhwa to the Law Enforcement Standards Board. Before I retired, I was a Deputy Public Defender with the State of Hawaii Office of the Public Defender for 32 years; currently, I mentor law students at the University of Hawaii School of Law as a Master with the James S. Burns chapter of the American Inns of Court.

I have the honor and privilege of knowing Adrian Dhakhwa through his capacity as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the City and County of Honolulu. Over many years, I saw Adrian emerge and develop as a skilled and energetic trial lawyer who was dedicated to the pursuit of justice for the people of Hawaii. We had several cases against each other, and I observed his determination and skill in prosecuting cases with utmost vigor and diligence. At the same time, even while we were engaged in the heat of battle, he always conducted himself in the most forthright and straightforward manner possible, consistent with the highest standards of professional conduct of his office and of the Hawaii State Bar Association. I know Adrian Dhakhwa to be a man of great personal integrity who lives by a high and consistent ethical and moral code that has been an integral part of his character throughout his professional life.

The people of Hawaii would be well-served by the appointment of Adrian Dhakhwa to the Law Enforcement Standards Board because he would actively and effectively contribute to the "programs and standards for training and certification of law enforcement officers" within the meaning of Hawaii Revised Statutes, Section 139-2(a). He is the right person for the job.

Sincerely,

Edward K. Harada, Esq.

GM-562

Submitted on: 4/11/2022 8:04:06 AM

Testimony for PSM on 4/12/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Travis Morita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee,

I would like to offer my strong support for the confirmation of Laxmi Dhakhwa to the Law Enforcement Standards Board.

I have known Laxmi for over 15 years and in that time he has always demonstrated being a person of high morals and integrity and I believe he will bring a fair and balanced perspective to the Law Enforcement Standards Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support.

Sincerely,
Travis Morita

Brian M Maeshiro
45-621 Puuluna Place
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
808-778-7577

April 9, 2022

RE: Laxmi Adrian Dhakhwa
Law Enforcement Standard Boards
Gubernatorial Nominee
GM 562

Dear Senator and Chairman Nishihara,

For over the past 12-years, I'm known Adrian Dhakhwa as a member of the McKinley High School Foundation's Board of Directors. Throughout his time as a Board member, Adrian contributes a tremendous amount of time to help and support the students, the School, and the Foundation.

We are all busy - with our careers, our family, and our community/neighborhood needs.

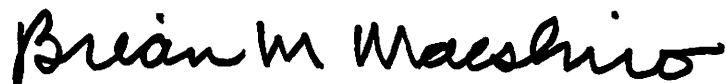
With demanding schedules as a Deputy Attorney General, Prosecutor, and Attorney, Adrian unselfishly made the time and effort, each year, to be actively involved in the McKinley High School Foundation's Student Scholarship process. This commitment involves countless hours, late nights, and weekends reviewing Student Scholarship Applications - evaluating each student's academics, essay, school/community activities, and financial needs. Adrian's passion and devotion to help young people make a better life are greatly valued and respected.

With Adrian's dedication to fairness and a commitment to make our Hawaii community a better place to live and feel safe, he would be a valuable member of the Law Enforcement Standards Board.

If you have any questions or need more information, please call or email me.

Your committee's consideration and approval of (Laxmi) Adrian Dhakhwa is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely and with Aloha,



Brian M. Maeshiro

GM-562

Submitted on: 4/10/2022 8:52:19 PM

Testimony for PSM on 4/12/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Esaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee,

I would like to provide testimony for the nomination of Laxmi Adrian Dhakhwa to the state Law Enforcement Standards Board. Although I am now currently employed as a police officer for the Honolulu Police Department, I first met Mr. Dhakhwa while I was employed as a Criminalist in the Honolulu Police Department's Scientific Investigation Section between 2005 and 2013, and Mr. Dhakhwa served as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the City & County of Honolulu Department of the Prosecuting Attorney. It was in the formative years of my professional development that I developed my opinion of Mr. Dhakhwa. I found him to be intelligent, hard-working, and fair in his treatment of both victims and suspects. I also found his enthusiasm for his work and tenacity in bringing closure to his cases to be respectable, and comforting in knowing that we had prosecutors such as Mr. Dhakhwa who did their best for the people of Hawaii. Mr. Dhakhwa has always been professional and courteous in dealing with others, and I can think of no better person to deal with the current issues faced by Hawaii's law enforcement, and which need to be addressed by a Law Enforcement Standards Board. His levelheaded thinking and many positive attributes would serve him well in any professional capacity, however, I feel that they would be of particular benefit for a position such as this. In light of these observations, please let me offer my humble recommendation for the nomination of Mr. Dhakhwa to the Law Enforcement Board. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

David Esaki, Sergeant

Honolulu Police Department

Criminal Investigation Division

Sex Crimes Detail

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 229
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: G.M. 562; Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Law Enforcement Standards Board, LAXMI DHAKHWA for a term to expire 06-30-2023.

Chair Nishihara, Vice-Chair DeCoite and members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs, I am submitting the following testimony in strong support of G.M. 562.

Throughout his time as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, Mr. Dhakhwa has epitomized the Department's mission, "To promote and ensure public safety and order through effective, efficient and just prosecution." His dedication and professionalism are unquestionable and one to be admired. As a highly experienced prosecutor – and longstanding Team Captain for the Department's Felony Trial Division – Mr. Dhakhwa has dedicated himself as a public servant for over 20 years to the City and State as not just a prosecutor or attorney general, but as a mentor and role model for past and present deputies. I have had the pleasure to work with, observe, and experience his leadership, as he worked as a deputy prosecuting attorney and my team captain in the Felony Trial Division. I have always known him to be honest, straightforward and passionate about serving the State of Hawaii as a deputy prosecuting attorney and attorney general. His professionalism and dedication to the State of Hawaii through service has always been respected and will undoubtedly be fine character traits as a member of the Law Enforcement Standards Board.

I have no doubt that Mr. Dhakhwa's even keel demeanor, attention to detail, and moral compass of doing the right thing will allow him to effectively contribute to creating programs and standards for training and certification for current and future law enforcement officers. His experience and legal knowledge will be of utmost value to the Law Enforcement Standard Board and to the people of the State of Hawaii.

For all the forgoing reasons, I strongly support the confirmation of LAXMI DHAKHWA to the Law Enforcement Standards Board, pursuant to G.M. 562. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Sincerely,
Mark Tom

Chad Kumagai
98-198 Lania Way
Aiea, HI 96701

April 11, 2022

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara
Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite
Vice Chair
and Members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair DeCoite, and Members of the Committee:

I respectfully submit this testimony in my personal capacity in strong support of GM562, which considers Gubernatorial Nominee Laxmi Dhakhwa for the Law Enforcement Standards Board.

I have known Mr. Dhakhwa since I began in the Honolulu prosecutor's office in 2012, where he was my first Team Captain at the Felony Trials level. Mr. Dhakhwa has been an instrumental mentor in my career, demonstrating patience and understanding when I was a new attorney, as well as camaraderie as the years have passed. He has always been someone I have looked up to as a prosecutor and a person. Mr. Dhakhwa has handled some of the most serious cases in Honolulu with intelligence, diligence, and an eye towards justice.

The Law Enforcement Standards Board is an important step towards standardizing police conduct, providing accountability for misconduct, and increasing the public's trust in law enforcement. I am confident that Mr. Dhakhwa would serve in furtherance of those ends with the same traits that have made him a successful prosecutor. I strongly support his consideration for the Law Enforcement Standards Board.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

/s/Chad Kumagai

Chad Kumagai

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara
Chair, Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and
Military Affairs

Hoala Greevy

Tuesday, 12 April 2022

Support for **GM562**, Adrian Dhakhwa

I have known Adrian Dhakhwa since 1991, where we shared Advanced Placement (AP) classes together as freshmen at McKinley High School. He is fair, eager, and determined. Adrian has my utmost support for the Law Enforcement Standards Board (“LESB”) member position.

As a testament of character, Adrian is a longstanding member of the [Board of Directors](#) for the McKinley High School Foundation. The Foundation is a 501c(3) non-profit whose primary objective is to award scholarships to deserving McKinley students. About ten years ago, Adrian played a key role in the creation of the “McKinley Class of 1994 Scholarship,” which is a special scholarship within the Foundation.

According to the latest data I can gather, McKinley High School has the [third highest dropout rate](#) in the state, with only 52% of incoming freshmen graduating. At a national level, McKinley is known as a dropout factory. Yet Adrian continues to give back to a school that has given us so much.

As a fellow graduate of the public high school whose alumni include Senator Dan Inouye, Governor George Ariyoshi, State Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland, Judge Gary Chang, and Chief Lee Donahue, we are sending you another one of our best. His application for this position deserves undivided attention.

Mahalo,

Hoala Greevy
Founder CEO
Paubox, Inc.

LATE

GM-562

Submitted on: 4/11/2022 2:33:16 PM

Testimony for PSM on 4/12/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sean Lopez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Sean Lopez and I am giving written testimony in support of accepting Adrian Dhakhwa's application to serve on the Law Enforcement Standards Board. I've known Adrian for over 20 years and can speak very strongly to his character. Adrian expects honesty of his friends, his children, and most importantly himself. There's a lot of great things I can say about Adrian, his family, the people that he associates with, etc. It all boils down to this though. Our police force in Hawaii is part of our community. We should be able to trust without question that when police are needed, they are acting with our safety and well being in mind. Our police force should be a sense of pride for every person that calls Hawaii home. Although this will boil down to the individual decision making of each member of the police force, a strong commitment to a clear and simple set of standards will help when decisions have to be made. I trust noone more than Adrian to help to shape those standards and apply them. It's a critically important job, and I know that Adrian will see it as that, and will work beyond what is expected of him to see to it that the Law Enforcement community has a simple, clear and easy to apply set of standards to operate by.