



STATE OF HAWAII ORGANIZATION OF POLICE OFFICERS

" A Police Organization for Police Officers Only "
Founded 1971

March 27, 2022

ONLINE/FAX: 808-586-6879; 808-587-7230

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara
Chair

The Honorable Lynn DeCoite
Vice-Chair

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Hawaii State Capitol, Rooms 214, 231
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: **SCR 49; SR 44-Urging The City And County of Honolulu To Establish A
Police Station In Leeward Oahu To Provide Enhanced Police Services And
Improved Law Enforcement Response For Leeward Oahu Communities**

Dear Chair Nishihara, Vice-Chair DeCoite, and Honorable Committee members:

I serve as the President of the State of Hawaii Organization of Police Officers (“SHOPO”) and write to you on behalf of our Union in strong **support** of SCR 49 and SR 44 which calls for the creation of a new police station in District 8 which will require increased staffing on the Leeward Coast.

While we strongly support the creation of a new police station, the resolution does not address how we are expected to staff this newly created district with officers given the severe staffing crisis we are in. As a union, we would like to know where and how are we supposed to find these officers when we cannot fill the districts, sectors and beats that already exist.

The resolution is absolutely correct in acknowledging the “increased criminal activity” and that a “greater police presence and a better law enforcement response” is needed. However, I ask you and your legislators how we are to accomplish this given the cold fact that we do not have a sufficient number of officers to provide that presence and response. It is obvious that the increased criminal activity is the direct result of not having enough officers staffing our beats.

Main Office & Honolulu Chapter Office
1717 Hoe Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819-3125
Tel: (808) 847-4676 "84 SHOPO"
www.shopohawaii.org Fax: (808) 841-4818

Hawaii Chapter Office
688 Kinoole Street, Room 220B
Hilo, Hawaii 96720-3877
Tel: (808) 934-8405
Fax: (808) 934-8210

Kauai Chapter Office
3176 Oihana Street, Suite 104, Lihue
Mailing Add: P. O. Box 1708
Lihue, Hawaii 96766-5708
Tel: (808) 246-8911

Maui Chapter Office
1887 Wili Pa Loop, Suite 2
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793-1253
Tel: (808) 242-6129
Fax: (808) 242-9519

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Re: SCR 49; SR 44-Urging The City And County of Honolulu To Establish A Police Station In
Leeward Oahu To Provide Enhanced Police Services And Improved Law Enforcement Response
For Leeward Oahu Communities
March 27, 2022
Page 2

You will recall that former Chief Susan Ballard publicly stated in 2018 and 2019 that HPD was cutting services including the investigation of certain **felony** crimes. She announced to you and the rest of the public that certain reported crimes would simply not be investigated because of the lack of officers. This is 2022 and the staffing crisis is worse. Turnover is constant, new recruits enlist and then cannot make it through our training or they graduate and soon leave for other jurisdictions that offer higher compensation and take our training with them. Our most experienced officers who are eligible to retire get out as soon as they can. The officers who continue to work are fatigued and burned out working excessive hours.

The local residents and business owners of the Leeward Coast have been screaming for a greater police presence for years but it has fallen on deaf ears because nothing productive has been done to increase the number of police officers in District 8 so that those residents have the level of police protection they deserve. Instead of helping us find ways to recruit and retain officers, we have seen our compensation rates fall substantially behind similarly sized jurisdictions, our retirement benefits have been slashed by the legislature, and we have been working without a contract for almost a year creating an atmosphere of instability and anxiety. Our current pay and reduced retirement benefits do not attract a sufficient number of qualified recruits, the attrition rate at the police academy is staggering and shocking, and those who are eligible to retire are exiting at the first opportunity. We are in the midst of a staffing crisis yet this resolution calls for an expansion of police services and greater police presence and protection without offering any real world solutions on how to make this all happen. You simply cannot have your cake and eat it too.

As far as our union is concerned, the residents and business owners on the Leeward Coast deserve the same level of police service, presence, and protection as those who live in Kahala and Hawaii Kai. It should be no less of a priority to maintain their safety and to protect the property and possessions of those who live and work in Waipahu, Ewa, Nanakuli, Maili, Waianae and Makaha than neighborhoods that have higher real estate values and income levels. Many of our police officers have families and relatives who live on the Leeward Coast. They have been clamoring for greater police protection for years, but shamefully no one has responded other than with lip service. The simple fact is we do not have enough officers to adequately protect the residents on the Leeward Coast and other parts of the island, and have made this known for a long time but the situation remains unchanged. Your resolution has good intentions but again I have to ask you, how are we realistically supposed to accomplish what is being proposed when we do not have enough officers to do the job? Please tell us how we are going to staff a new police station when we cannot fully staff what already exists. While we certainly support the intent of this resolution, we wish this honorable body would do more to provide substantive support for our officers instead of working earnestly to pass legislation that creates

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair

The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice-Chair

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

Re: SCR 49; SR 44-Urging The City And County of Honolulu To Establish A Police Station In Leeward Oahu To Provide Enhanced Police Services And Improved Law Enforcement Response For Leeward Oahu Communities

March 27, 2022

Page 3

additional and unnecessary certifications and standards that discourages rather than encourages people from joining the police department.

We thank you for allowing us to be heard and to share our concerns on this resolution and hope your committee will work to offer concrete and specific solutions to address and mitigate the shortage of police officers so that we can provide the necessary level of police protection to the residents and businesses on the Leeward Coast.

Respectfully submitted,

ROBERT "BOBBY" CAVACO
SHOPO President

SCR-49

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 12:17:36 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/29/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frances Tapiz-Andrian	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly Support

LATE

SCR-49

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 3:03:26 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/29/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chanelle Lovegrove	Testifying for Ka Makana at Hoakalei CA & Associa Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Ka Makana at Hoakalei Community Association and Associa Hawaii supports SCR49.

LATE

SCR-49

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 4:10:05 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/29/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Allan Vosburgh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

28 March 2022

To whom it may concern,

As a long time Leeward Oahu resident, I have noted the impact of increased development on the ability of the Honolulu Police Department to provide adequate police coverage throughout District 8. Despite more and more residential and business activity, HPD has struggled to cover such a large area that stretches from Kaena Point to Pearl City. On any given day, HPD officers are stretched thin trying to respond to calls for assistance, traffic issues, accidents and investigations. As the Coordinator for the Kamakana at Hoakalei Neighborhood Security Watch, I am well aware of the challenges to law enforcement in our community.

The new Waianae Station was built to enable management of a separate HPD District. The station contains the space, but not the facilities and manning to take on those responsibilities. It makes sense to develop those resources in advance of the certain population growth taking place on the Leeward Coast.

I urge you to take action immediately to enhance HPD's ability to provide safety and security to Leeward Oahu. Please provide the funds and support that will enable the development of an HPD District 9, or at a minimum, provide additional officers and funding to District 8, enabling them to meet the challenges as the community expands.

Thank you for your consideration.

Allan Vosburgh

91-1051 Waikai Street

Ewa Beach, HI 96706

808-291-9756

SCR-49

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 4:37:38 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/29/2022 1:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael I Rice	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the establishment of a new police station for the Leeward side. I would recommend building the police station behind Sack N Save along Lualualei Naval Road.

SCR-49

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 3:00:42 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/29/2022 1:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chanelle Lovegrove	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SCR49.