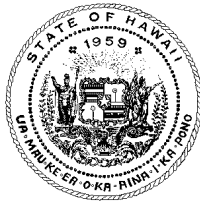


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII
**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
AND REHABILITATION**
*Ka 'Oihana Ho'omalu Kalaima
a Ho'oponopono Ola*
1177 Alakea Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

TOMMY JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

Melanie Martin
Deputy Director
Administration

Vacant
Deputy Director
Correctional Institutions

Sanna Muñoz
Deputy Director
Rehabilitation Services
and
Programs

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1811
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
by

Tommy Johnson, Director
Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

House Committee on Labor & Government Operations
Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair
Representative Andrew Takuya Garrett, Vice Chair

Tuesday, January 30, 2024; 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 309 and Via Videoconference

Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR) **strongly opposes** House Bill 1811, which in part seeks to rename the newly created Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) to the Department of the State Sheriff. The legislature addressed this matter when passing HB 2171, which became Act 278 that same year. Specifically, when enacting Act 278, the legislature approved the name of the newly created Department of Law Enforcement (DLE), which considered the wide-ranging role and the duties and responsibilities of the DLE.

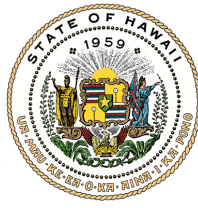
The DLE encompasses the State Sheriff's Division, Narcotics Enforcement Division, a Criminal Investigation Division because of the transfer of dozens of criminal investigators from the Department of the Attorney, and staff from other departments as well to ensure the DLE can effectively and efficiently take on its role as the State's Department of Law Enforcement with statewide jurisdiction in several critically important areas.

While we all recognize the long history of State Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs, the DLE is much more with a more comprehensive and wide-reaching mission, which will not take anything away from the history of the State Sheriff and Deputy Sheriffs, but rather enhance it. Amongst other acknowledgments, the DLE has rightfully chosen to keep the title of State Sheriff, First Deputy Sheriff, and Deputy Sheriff along with the 7-point Berkley Star sheriff badge rather than change the name to state police.

Although HB 1811 is well-meaning, it is nonetheless misguided. In that, the distinctive and culturally significant role of the Hawai'i sheriffs and their unique history is not diminished, harmed, nor will it be forgotten. The creation of the DLE was necessary and decades overdue as the State of Hawai'i was the only State without a statewide law enforcement department. The Sheriffs Division's inclusion into the DLE makes them a part of something greater than themselves yet maintains their unique designation, badge, and history. For these reasons, the DCR requests HB 1811 be deferred.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **opposition** to HB 1811.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



JORDAN LOWE
DIRECTOR

MICHAEL VINCENT
Deputy Director
Administration

JARED K. REDULLA
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

SYLVIA LUKE
LT GOVERNOR
KE KE'ENA

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

Ka 'Oihana Ho'okō Kānāwai

715 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1811
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
Before the House Committee on Labor & Government Operations
Tuesday, January 30, 2024; 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol Conference Room 309, Via Videoconference
Testifiers: Michael Vincent, or Jared Redulla

Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) **strongly opposes** House Bill 1811.

This bill seeks to rename the DLE and certain positions in the Department.

In 2022, the Legislature finally tackled what had been decades of effort to address long-standing needs for law enforcement reform at the State level with the introduction and passage of HB2171 which became Act 278 that year.

Act 278 established a new State law enforcement agency for Hawai'i and named it the Department of Law Enforcement for the specific purpose of consolidating and administering criminal law enforcement and investigation functions of the Departments of Public Safety and Transportation, certain criminal investigations functions of the Department of the Attorney General, and the Office of Homeland Security and Hawai'i State Fusion Center which was part of the Hawai'i Department of Defense. As of January 1, 2024, these law enforcement officers are now part of the DLE and Hawai'i now has what is a state police force.

The stated purpose of Act 278 is to ". . . provide the highest level of law enforcement service for the public, state employees, and state properties." Act 278, Section 1. The Legislature specifically found that "[c]onsolidation of state law

enforcement responsibilities into a single state department will centralize state law enforcement functions to increase public safety, improve decision making, promote accountability, streamline communication, decrease costs, reduce duplication of efforts, and provide uniform training and standards." Id. The Legislature also gave the DLE the mandate to:

- (1) Establishing a partnership with the federal Joint Terrorism Task Force to protect the State from domestic and foreign threats;
- (2) Eliminating the narcotics epidemic that plagues Hawaii's communities through its commitment of investigators in the federal High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area task forces;
- (3) Expanding the narcotics canine program; and
- (4) Reducing gun violence and other violent criminal acts in island communities through participation in the federal Project Safe Neighborhoods program. Id.

Finally, the Legislature has given the DLE the mandate to establish " . . . a training center . . . to provide its law enforcement entities the highest level of core and continuing education and training" that ". . . will also be made available to federal, state, and county law enforcement agencies upon their request."

The Sheriff Division within the DLE is an essential part of the Department, but it is just that, "part of the department." The Department has significantly more going on with law enforcement in our community than just the Sheriff's Division. The Narcotics Enforcement Division is well recognized in the community in both the regulation of legal drugs as well as the war on illegal drugs that plague our community. The addition of a solid team of criminal investigators from the Attorney General gives the DLE a robust Criminal Investigations Division-a crime fighting tool that the Sheriff's Division has never had. The creation of the Office of Inspector General (formerly the "Internal affairs Office") provides additional investigative capabilities and provides necessary law enforcement officer accountability to the community. The addition of the Office of Homeland Security and the Hawaii State Fusion Center brings crime-fighting capabilities from all levels of government within and outside the borders of our state. All of these additional elements of the DLE represent capabilities that are outside of the Sheriff Division. Together, the divisions of the DLE bring to our community monumental

improvements in law enforcement capabilities that did not exist or that could not be efficiently coordinated before. Equally important, is that the DLE is looking forward to expanding through the creation of both a digital forensics laboratory and a state forensics laboratory, working with the Department of Education to improve security, and leveraging technology to increase community safety by creating a real-time crime center. All these exciting improvements to law enforcement require the work of a team of equally important people working together, and not as individuals.

The history of law enforcement in Hawai'i goes back centuries. Modern policing made its way to Hawai'i in 1846. King Kamehameha III led the Hawaiian Kingdom from a monarchy to a constitutional monarchy implementing what were considered modern laws and international formal recognition of the Hawaiian Kingdom as an independent state. One of his accomplishments was the establishment of the Marshal of the King as part of his second Act in 1846. The DLE has its beginnings with the Marshal of the Kingdom. To put this into perspective as law enforcement agencies in America go, the establishment of what we have in Hawai'i as the Sheriff is one of the oldest formal law enforcement agencies in America. Yes, Hawai'i was not part of the United States at the time, but King Kamehameha III and his establishment of the Marshal's office predates, with very few exceptions, virtually all formal law enforcement agencies in the United States. The exceptions, and there may be others, include the US Marshals Service (1789), and the Texas Rangers who trace their roots to 1839. While a few cities had night watch systems in place at the time, it was not until 1838 when the Boston PD was formally founded, and New York City followed in 1844.

The DLE recognizes the history and legacy of the Sheriff in Hawai'i and has ensured the continuation of that legacy by keeping the title Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff and the use of the 7-point Berkley Star sheriff badge rather than change the name to state police. The patch used by the Sheriff Division is only available to members of the Sheriff Division and pays homage to the fact that the office of the Sheriff traces back to 1846. Plans for the DLE office include the establishment of an appropriate museum to display artifacts, documents, and items of historic value for the preservation of this lineage.

While this bill may appear to protect the history and legacy of the Sheriff, the DLE, is much bigger than the office of the Sheriff and the Sheriff Division. The DLE's other law enforcement units have histories that can be traced to past efforts to combat organized crime long ago, early counter-narcotics efforts in the days of the Territory, and efforts to coordinate the collection of crime and terrorism related intelligence before the tragic events of 9-11. Indeed, the DLE also believes that the histories of its other law enforcement units are equally important to the history of the Sheriff Division.

Finally, the DLE celebrates the diversity and rich history of all its law enforcement units, personnel, and staff. It is in fact that diversity that makes the DLE a stronger agency. Consequently, the agency name, "Department of Law Enforcement" best describes and honors the diverse histories, backgrounds, capabilities, and functions of the DLE and its employees. As such, this bill should be held in Committee and not moved forward,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong opposition to this bill.

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1811
A BILL RELATING TO RENAMING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

By
Shawn H. Tsuha

House Committee on Labor and Government Relations
Representative Scot Matayoshi, Chair
Representative Andrew Garrett, Vice Chair

Tuesday, January 30, 2024, 9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 309, Via Video Conference

Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett, and Members of the Committee:

I **support** HB 1811 which seeks to rename the Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) to the Department of the State Sheriff to honor the historical legacy of the Sheriff Division. This is consistent with the recognition of the previous Governors, the Hawaii State Legislature, and the people of Hawaii, that Hawaii's unique culture, and history, deserve to be perpetuated and preserved. Within that context, King Kamehameha III first established the role of the current Sheriff Division over 175 years ago.

In recent years, there was a growing recognition that various State Law Enforcement entities should be consolidated into one all-encompassing Department to provide more efficient, and effective, law enforcement services to the people of Hawaii. Throughout our unique history, and continuing, the Sheriff Division has provided the majority of State Law Enforcement resources in response to law enforcement and All-hazards events and will continue to do so. All law enforcement entities in Hawaii require that the Sheriff's Division participate when a combined state/county/federal response is needed. Even when the Sheriff Division doesn't have primary functional responsibility for the response. This isn't solely related to our numbers, it's an ongoing recognition of the collective training, experience, and professionalism of the men, and women, of the Sheriff Division.

With approximately over 300 deputy sheriffs currently providing LEO support the Sheriff Division will continue to grow as needed to address rising criminal trends in Hawaii as recognized by the legislature when the DLE was created. All other State Law Enforcement entities provide a niche response. This is not an indictment of their role,

but an acknowledgment of the functional boundaries established by Hawaii Revised Statutes, their roles and mission, and their overall ability to do so.

During my 32-year career as a Deputy Sheriff Lieutenant, a former Appointee State Sheriff, and Deputy Director, under two different Governor's administrations, and retired Hawaii National Guard Lieutenant Colonel, I have participated in almost every single State Law Enforcement response, either in support of the counties, or as a standalone state agency. I can emphatically express to you that other agencies, and the community, always require the Sheriff Division's response.

House Bill 1811 is a very low-cost, or no-cost, measure, that solidifies in the State of Hawaii the recognition, and contributions of the Sheriff Division, as it already exists amongst the community, and other agencies, and honoring, our unique historical, and multicultural past. As I learned from my family, "Okage Sama Dei." I humbly ask that the legislature acknowledge that whatever the Department of Law Enforcement becomes it is because of what the men, and women, of the Sheriff Division have accomplished since the Hawaiian Monarchy created it and will continue to do so.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

HB-1811

Submitted on: 1/26/2024 5:51:19 PM

Testimony for LGO on 1/30/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susie Chun Oakland	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Matayoshi and Members of the Labor and Government Operations Committee:

I strongly support House Bill No. 1811, relating to the Department of Law Enforcement, to change the department's name to the Department of the State Sheriff to honor the legacy of King Kamehameha III and the unique history of Hawai'i's state law enforcement entity.

Your unwavering support is truly appreciated.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Susie Chun Oakland

Hawai'i State Senator (Retired)

HB-1811

Submitted on: 1/26/2024 6:15:31 PM

Testimony for LGO on 1/30/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alan Urasaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge the committee to support this name change to keep with our history and cultural ties and to align this government agency with identity of the Sheriff of Hawaii. Changing the name at this point makes the most sense rather than delaying it years from now. Thank you for consideration.

HB-1811

Submitted on: 1/26/2024 7:29:24 PM

Testimony for LGO on 1/30/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Koa Dobrowolsky	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB1811. The Sheriff in Hawaii is a unique institution with culturally significant connections to the ideas and the traditions that make Hawaii different. The Sheriff in Hawaii was born under the monarchy of King Kamehameha III and is the oldest law enforcement entity in all of Hawaii. The unique inception of the Sheriff in Hawaii makes the Sheriff Division the only agency within the United States to be founded under a kingdom. Founded in 1846, the Sheriff of Hawaii was the 7th organized law enforcement agency in the United States with its creation following that of the NYPD. This bill celebrates the founding and the continued contributions of the State Sheriff to Hawaii and its people.

This bill solidifies the historic Sheriff title while creating a department that is organizationally logical. Every state within the nation has multiple police agencies including Police Departments, Sheriff Departments, and State Police. The use of a generic title such as the Department of Law Enforcement is non-standard and illogical especially considering that 85 percent of the department is made up of deputy sheriffs. Last year's bill creating the department of law enforcement was supported by deputies, but it stopped short of creating the department that each of us have longed for. There were several instances throughout 2023 where the DLE executive leadership stated that they intended to eliminate the Sheriff name. This intent was alarming and became the rallying cry for the creation of this bill. This bill secures the legacy of our historic and unique agency by elevating the Sheriff to cabinet level and creates a command structure that makes sense.

Lastly, the Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) already contains the language necessary for the Sheriff and his /her deputies to continue their law enforcement duties and responsibilities. Passing this bill will require very little change to the HRS and has zero cost associated with its enactment.

Respectfully Submitted

Lanikoa Dobrowolsky

FBI NA 256

HB-1811

Submitted on: 1/26/2024 9:18:28 PM

Testimony for LGO on 1/30/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lt Michael Oakland	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Garrett and members of the committee.

i am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of this bill because Act 278 that created the Dept of Law Enforcement was a culmination of deputy sheriff's hard work for the last 18-20 years (longer in some ways).

Deputies have been a part of Hawaii's criminal justice community for the last 178 years this year and we want to enshrine that great legacy in statute as was originally intended through our efforts in obtaining the studies, audits and countless hours briefing and educating legislators previous to Act 278 becoming law.

Changing the name of the Dept of Law Enforcement to the Dept of the State Sheriff is to honor the legacy of King Kamehameha III and the unique history of Hawaii's state law enforcement entity.

Previous to the passing of Act 278 we as concerned citizens and deputies approached the leaders at that time concerned the name Sheriff was being overlooked and we were assured it was to get the bill through and that we could always change it later. The reason we were concerned is that the dept of law enforcement is just too generic of a title and the head of ANY agency across this country is generally referred to as Chief of Police or SHERIFF. This of course is why all those working under the Sheriff are referred to as Deputy Sheriff's regardless of the ranks we hold, eg: Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain etc.

The Sheriff's were recently honored to be asked by Princes Kawanankoa's estate to provide deputies to be her pallbearers because the princes asked for us to perform this role which was a great honor and privilege as we have performed this service for Queen Liliuokalani in 1917 as well as others.

So with this being said, we want to solidify our place by finally properly recognizing this deep and rich heritage in law once and for all which is protecting a piece of Hawaiian history as has been done with the return of the Queens standard to Hawaii and recognizing Governor Greens statement while fronting the statue of King Kamehameha the Great on his day, Kamehameha Day 2023 when he mentioned the need to keep and protect native Hawaiian culture and traditions.

Your unwavering support is truly appreciated.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Michael Oakland, Former President

Bargaining Unit 14, HGEA

HB-1811

Submitted on: 1/27/2024 2:05:53 PM

Testimony for LGO on 1/30/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Mallari	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stand in strong support of this bill. The Sheriffs Department has a long and distinguished history in the State of Hawaii and should not be erased from memory.

HB-1811

Submitted on: 1/27/2024 2:11:56 PM

Testimony for LGO on 1/30/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It's hard to believe that no one considered any of this when the "Department of Law Enforcement" was being proposed.

HB-1811

Submitted on: 1/27/2024 8:10:03 PM

Testimony for LGO on 1/30/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Candace Dobrowolsky	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB1811. As kanaka maoli, I trace my lineage to King Kamehameha the III and I take great pride in the history and culture of Hawai'i. The creation of the Department of the State Sheriff is an important step in honoring the work of King Kamehameha III. Our Office of the Sheriff was created to serve the people of Hawai'i in 1846 and the contributions and the sacrifices made by the men and women of the Sheriff for over 178 years should be celebrated. The Sheriff served under our monarchy before Iolani Palace was built and before the creation of Kamehameha Schools. Deputy Sheriff's served our beloved Queen Lili'uokalani and stood vigil during her funeral in 1917. In 2023, at the wish of the late Princess Kawananakoa, our deputies carried our last recognized member of the royal family up the steps of the palace to rest during her celebration of life because of the Sheriff's connection to the crown. This bill enshrines the Office of the Sheriff into statute and allows the Sheriff to take its place amongst our most treasured institutions. This bill is culturally relevant and timely.

As the wife of the highest-ranking civil service deputy in the Sheriff Division, my husband has served Hawai'i honorably for over thirty years. Its unfortunate that he is unable to provide in-person testimony to this bill due to the arrogance of the appointed executive leaders who have forbid his contact with members of the legislature through the issuance of a cease-and-desist letter, the threat of internal investigation, and possible termination. My husband and others within the division are held hostage to appointed leaders who abuse their authority to restrict employees from exercising their first amendment rights during their personnel time. This is outrageous behavior and should be condemned.

Me Ke Aloha Pumehana

Candace Waiolaokalani Dobrowolsky

HB-1811

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 8:45:23 AM

Testimony for LGO on 1/30/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anne Sanders	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this

HB-1811

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 8:52:20 AM

Testimony for LGO on 1/30/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Anne Sanders	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill!

HB-1811

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 4:02:18 PM

Testimony for LGO on 1/30/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danielle Smout	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support House Bill 1811. Renaming the Department of Law Enforcement to the Department of the State Sheriff honors the legacy of King Kamehameha III and celebrates the rich history of Hawaii. The Sheriff has been an important part of the criminal justice system in Hawaii since 1846 and the department deserves to be honored as one of Hawaii's prized cultural institutions. The creation of the Office of the Sheriff by our King sets it apart from all other law enforcement agencies throughout the United States and its uniqueness should be celebrated and distinguished by the formalizing of the department in statute.

Respectfully Submitted

Danielle Smout

HB-1811

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 8:11:29 AM

Testimony for LGO on 1/30/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cory Nojima	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha no Committee:

I am in ***STRONG SUPPORT*** of HB1811 / SB2628. I support the renaming of the Department of Law Enforcement to the Department of State Sheriff. As a Hawaiian and understanding the history of Hawai‘i, King Kamehameha III established the office of the Marshal of the Hawaiian Islands on April 27, 1846, which eventually was known as the High Sheriff. The Office of the High Sheriff of the Territory was abolished at the time of the illegal Statehood. [Reference ags.hawaii.gov/has_police_1844-1918_fa Police Records 1844-1918]

As the state’s oldest law enforcement agency and the only one in the United States created under a monarchy, the sheriff division has a rich heritage with functions that have evolved over the course of 170+ years. I believe the name change would help educate the public to understand the role Deputy Sheriff’s have, which is like county police.

As we know, most Sheriff Departments are County Deputies; however, in Hawai‘i we have County Police Officers who respectfully work for Honolulu Police Department, Kaua‘i Police Department, Maui County Police Department and Hawai‘i Island Police Department.

I believe the name “Department of State Sheriff” would reestablish the rich History of Hawai‘i since 1846 and instill the pride as well as boost morale for those wearing the five-star badge that they have taken an oath to wear.

I humbly ask that you make a pono choice and vote in ***SUPPORT*** of HB1811 / SB2628.

Mahalo piha,

Cory Nojima

HB-1811

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 9:38:08 PM

Testimony for LGO on 1/30/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Caudell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the renaming of the department of law enforcement to the department of the State Sheriff. The Hawaii sheriff's division is a historic department with a legacy dating back to the Monarchy that needs to be maintained and preserved. All too often we tend to move forward without preserving the past. Items of historical significance should not only be preserved but also honored. I have had the opportunity to serve in the Hawaii sheriff's division. It is an organization that can be honored and a legacy that can be continued. The agency already exists so it's not a matter of starting something new. It's preserving what's in place, and will cost less than starting something new. Not only is it already one of the only state sheriff agencies in the US, It can be continued as such.

HB-1811

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 9:59:56 PM

Testimony for LGO on 1/30/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Canhuang zhang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Matayoshi and Members of the Labor and Government Operations Committee:

I strongly support House Bill No. 1811, relating to the Department of Law Enforcement, to change the department's name to the Department of the State Sheriff to honor the legacy of King Kamehameha III and the unique history of Hawaii's state law enforcement entity.

Respectfully,

Canhuang Zhang

Honorable Chair, Vice-Chair and members of the Committee,

I am submitting this testimony to express my support of HB1811 along with companion bill SB2628.

About two years ago, I supported the re-organizing of the former Department of Public Safety into two separate and independent bodies in the form of the Department of Law Enforcement and the Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation. That was the first positive step as it enables the two departments to address their distinctive needs and functions.

With just about a month into existence, the Hawaii Department of Law Enforcement is going through it's "growing pains" so to speak. Its' through this process that gives the people and the State an opportunity to consider a true identity for the department.

The title of "Sheriff" has a long distinguished and storied history, ever evolving from its "old world" European roots to today's modern policing in the United States. The State of Hawaii is no exception. Hawaii's "Sheriff" can be traced back to the Hawaiian Kingdom and Monarchs and throughout the decades it has been a part of our proud cultural history, playing a part in shaping what Hawaii is today.

Unlike our police departments who are established by city charter, Sheriffs exist as an administrative title, through a "Department Director". This bill and its Senate companion would truly establish an identity of a State Sheriff in State law. It gives an accountable face of the department, and, akin to a Chief of Police, who answers to the city, a State Sheriff answers to the State of Hawaii. This would also streamline the Department's organization, functions, duties and responsibilities from the top down, rank and file.

No matter the perception and limitations, the men & women wearing the uniform with the distinct Sheriff badge continue to carry-out their responsibilities, proudly serving the people of the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully

SCR1701

HB-1811

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 8:28:59 AM

Testimony for LGO on 1/30/2024 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patrick K. Kawai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Patrick Kawai and I support HB1811 that renames the department of Law Enforcement to the Department of the State Sheriff.