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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 2457, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

Before the House Committee on Finance

Thursday, February 22, 2024; 11:30 a.m.

State Capitol Conference Room 308, Via Videoconference

Testifiers: Michael Vincent or Jared Redulla

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) **strongly supports**, House Bill 2457, House Draft 1.

This Administration measure expands the requirements of section 353C-9, HRS, to require the Department of Law Enforcement to pursue and obtain accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. for all divisions and sections within the Department of Law Enforcement. The bill also creates the positions needed for the proper administration of CALEA accreditation and maintenance of that accreditation.

The Sheriff Division has been required to pursue CALEA accreditation since 2011 with the passage of Act 111, Hawaii Session Laws, 2011, which has been codified in §353C-9, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), which provides:

**[§353C-9] Department accreditation required.** The department shall pursue and obtain accreditation for the sheriff division from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc.

While CALEA accreditation is important, the DLE has determined that the requirement of §353C-9, HRS is insufficient for a state law enforcement agency and

supports expanding the requirement for CALEA accreditation to all divisions and sections within the DLE with nationally recognized standards that are the foundation for modern-day law enforcement agencies. For the DLE to be the law enforcement agency the Legislature and public expect, CALEA accreditation is essential.

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

February 21, 2024

**Via E-MAIL**

The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita  
Chair  
The Honorable Lisa Kitagawa  
Vice-Chair  
House Committee on Finance  
Hawaii State Capitol, Rooms 306, 435  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: **HB 2457 HD1 – Relating to the Department of Law Enforcement**

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, 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 HB 2457 HD1, which expands the requirement that the Department of Law Enforcement (“Department”) pursue and obtain accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (“CALEA”), to all divisions and sections within the Department and establishes five (5) CALEA coordinator positions within the Department.

According to this bill, the Department must “provide core and continuing education and training,” which “would be made available to state and county law enforcement agencies” where said “curriculum is intended to ensure individuals trained there have the highest level of education and training with knowledge and skills to protect and serve the public.” As you may already know, CALEA is nationally known as the gold standard benchmark in law enforcement and its accreditation seals are internationally recognized as the “Marks of Professional Excellence” for public safety agencies. In fact, all four (4) county police departments and their respective police academies are already accredited by CALEA.

We thank you for allowing us to be heard on this very important issue and we hope your committee will unanimously support HB 2457 HD1.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

ROBERT “BOBBY” CAVACO  
SHOPO PRESIDENT