

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER INDEPENDENT REVIEW BOARD**  
425 QUEEN STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

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September 10, 2021

Steven S. Alm  
Department of the Prosecuting Attorney  
City and County of Honolulu  
1060 Richards Street, 9<sup>th</sup> floor  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Law Enforcement Officer Related Death of Gavalynn Mahuka on July 26, 2018

Dear Prosecuting Attorney Alm,

Pursuant to section 28-153 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), the Law Enforcement Officer Independent Review Board (Board) reviewed the investigation submitted by the Honolulu Police Department. After thorough evaluation of the materials and information submitted, and discussion of the facts and circumstances of the case, the Board finds that the investigation was fairly conducted, and the use of deadly force by the law enforcement officers in this case was justified pursuant to HRS sections 703-304 (Use of force in self-protection) and 703-305 (Use of force for the protection of other persons). Accordingly, the Board recommends that prosecution in this matter be declined.

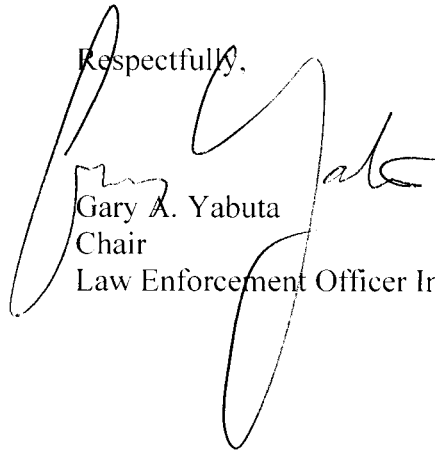
This recommendation is confidential until release by the Board pursuant to section 28-153(h), HRS, which provides that:

Once the board has issued the board's recommendation pursuant to subsection (f) and any criminal prosecution or proceedings in the State related to the officer-involved death have been adjudicated, the board shall release the board's recommendations and any criminal prosecution or proceedings in the State related to the officer-involved death have been adjudicated, the board shall release the board's recommendations and any accompanying reports, documents, and information, unless otherwise prohibited by law.

Steven S. Alm, Prosecuting Attorney  
September 10, 2021  
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Please inform the Board of your decision as to whether you will prosecute the officers involved in the death of Gavalynn Mahuka to allow the Board to comply with its statutory obligation to disclose its recommendation under section 28-153(h), HRS.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gary A. Yabuta', is written over the typed name and title.

Gary A. Yabuta  
Chair

Law Enforcement Officer Independent Review Board