

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



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

GARY A. YABUTA
CHAIR

BARBARA RICHARDSON
ASSISTANT CHAIR

BOARD MEMBERS
BETTINA ACKERMANN, M.D.
KATY CHEN
LANCE GOTO
LONDON MURATA
BARBARA TAKASE
JOHN TAM

October 5, 2021

Clare E. Connors
Attorney General
Department of the Attorney General
425 Queen Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Law Enforcement Officer Related Death of Delmar Espejo on February 18, 2018

Dear Attorney General Connors,

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 recommends further investigation and clarification. For example, further investigation into the path of the bullet and the plausibility of the officer firing his weapon as described in his statement. Upon completion of the further investigation requested, the Board requests that the entire report, including follow up requested, be returned to the Board for another review.

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.

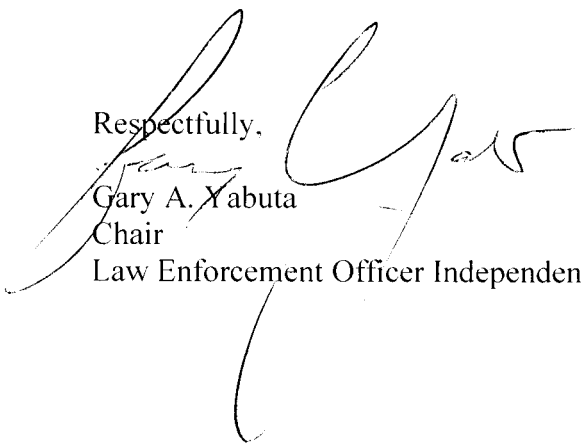
Clare E. Connors, Attorney General

October 5, 2021

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In addition to the follow up requested, please inform the Board of your decision as to whether you will prosecute the officer involved in the death of Delmar Espejo to allow the Board to comply with its statutory obligation to disclose its recommendation under section 28-153(h), HRS.

Respectfully,


Gary A. Yabuta

Chair

Law Enforcement Officer Independent Review Board

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December 7, 2021

Clare E. Connors
Attorney General
Department of the Attorney General
425 Queen Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Law Enforcement Officer Related Death of Delmar Espejo on February 18, 2018

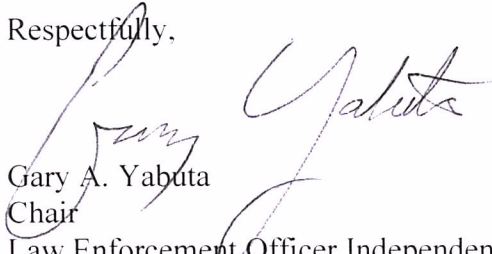
Dear Attorney General Connors,

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, the Board recommended further investigation and clarification.

In a response, dated November 2, 2021, the Department of the Attorney General advised the Board that it conducted a thorough assessment of the circumstances of this incident and took independent follow-up actions, including those that specifically addressed the Board concerns.

At this time, the Board is requesting copies of the follow-up investigation conducted by the Department or any other law enforcement agencies for its further review.

Respectfully,


Gary A. Yabuta
Chair

Law Enforcement Officer Independent Review Board