

HAWAII LAW ENFORCEMENT STANDARDS BOARD

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2025, 12:00 P.M.

OPEN SESSION MEETING MINUTES

I. Call to Order; Public Notice; Roll Call and Quorum Determination

The meeting was called to order by Chair Adrian Dhakhwa at 12:11 p.m. on Thursday, December 11, 2025.

The meeting was conducted virtually in accordance with Hawaii Revised Statutes, Chapter 92. The Chair noted that oral public testimony would be limited to two minutes per testifier, as approved at the previous meeting.

A. Roll Call

Administrator McCraw conducted roll call. The following members were present and confirmed that they were attending alone at their respective locations:

Matthew Dvonch (First Deputy Attorney General, Designee)
Director Mike Lambert (Vice Chair, Hawaii Department of Law Enforcement)
Chief Jason Redulla (DOCARE, Dept. of Land and Natural Resources, Designee)
Gary Yamashiroya (Director of Taxation, Designee)
Chief Rade Vanic (Honolulu Police Department, Designee)
Chief Reed Mahuna (Hawaii County Police Department, Designee)
Assistant Chief Gregg Okamoto (Maui Police Department, Designee)
Assistant Chief Sherry Bird (Honolulu Police Department, Designee)
Jared K. Redulla (Public Board Member)
Adrian Dhakhwa (Chair, Public Board Member)
Nicholas Schlapak (SHOPO)

Administrator McCraw reported that the following members notified the Board that they would not be able to attend and are therefore excused:

Craig Tanaka
Chief Kalani Ke (Kauai Police Department)
Harry Kubojiri (Public Board Member)

B. Quorum Determination

Chair Dhakhwa determined and announced that a quorum of eleven (11) Board members was present, and the meeting proceeded with duly authorized business.

Administrator McCraw and technical staff were present at the public meeting location.

Public Notice: Upon confirmation of quorum, Administrator McCraw played the prerecorded meeting access and accommodation announcement, including instructions for oral and written testimony, muting procedures, and participation by internet or phone.

II. Public Testimony

A. Oral Testimony

The Chair requested that any members of the public wishing to present testimony announce themselves and be recognized for that purpose.

Josh Parker (Policing Project, NYU School of Law) provided oral testimony. Mr. Parker recommended establishing a standard LESB meeting time to improve public participation and requested additional lead time for the submission of written testimony, citing challenges associated with the release of complex policy materials shortly before testimony deadlines.

Mr. Parker acknowledged the Board's revisions to the draft model vehicular pursuit policy to align with Act 210 and identified remaining concerns. These included the assignment of data collection and reporting responsibilities to the Law Enforcement Standards Board, which he stated are delegated by statute to the Department of the Attorney General, and the absence of a formal rulemaking process governing data collection standards. Mr. Parker also recommended revisiting provisions related to vehicle contact actions, including PIT maneuvers and ramming, and suggested either prohibiting such tactics or limiting their use to narrowly defined circumstances consistent with IACP and PERF recommendations.

The Chair thanked Mr. Parker for his testimony and invited questions from Board members. In response to the Chair's inquiry regarding the inclusion of data collection language in the model policy, Mr. Parker explained that the revised draft assigns data collection and reporting functions to the Board, whereas the statutory delegation under Act 210 places that responsibility with the Department of the Attorney General. He stated that clarifying this distinction would promote consistency with the statute.

No additional questions were raised by Board members. No further oral testimony was offered.

B. Previously Submitted Written Testimony

The Chair noted that written testimony from the NYU Policing Project had been distributed to Board members via the meeting chat.

III. Approval of November 6, 2025, Open Session Meeting Minutes

A. Open Session Meeting Minutes Approval

Chair Dhakhwa introduced the November 6, 2025, Open Session Meeting Minutes for consideration. No corrections or discussion were requested.

Motion: To approve the November 6, 2025, Open Session Meeting Minutes

Motion: Matthew Dvonch

Second: Vice Chair Mike Lambert

Vote: Approved unanimously

IV. Administrator's Report

A. Website and Identity

Administrator McCraw reported that he has been working with IT personnel to develop an independent Law Enforcement Standards Board website. He shared a Massachusetts POST website example with Board members and the Chair as a

structural reference for content and organization. He stated that a spring launch is anticipated and will require completion of Board member bios and professional headshots, as well as finalization of the Board's mission, vision, values, and identifying logo. He noted that these items are being addressed by the Permitted Interaction Group working on Chapter 6 rules.

B. Office Setup and Staffing

Administrator McCraw reported that he has contacted the state warehouse to identify available office furniture that can be transferred to the LESB office to support at least three incoming staff positions.

C. Stakeholder Engagement

Administrator McCraw reported on recent outreach to University of Hawaii faculty in sociology, criminology, and administration of justice. He noted that the administration of justice lead in Hawaii County is already working with the Hawaii County Police Department on curriculum development and college credit courses for officers.

Administrator McCraw stated that internship opportunities may be available to support the Board's work while permanent staffing is established. He reported that the sociology department has offered to analyze data collected by the Board, which would support the Job Task Analysis by providing objective third-party validation of findings. He also noted that faculty assistance is available to review curriculum and testing materials for accessibility and reading level, with the goal of ensuring that all training and certification materials meet appropriate readability standards.

D. Draft LESB Administrative Plan Overview

Administrator McCraw noted that the draft administrative plan had been shared with Board members in the meeting chat. Chief Vanic asked about the testing referenced in the plan. Administrator McCraw explained that the Board would need to develop standardized testing for initial certification and ongoing certification of officers.

Chief Vanic inquired whether officers who pass agency academy tests would be required to take an additional certification test. Administrator McCraw clarified that the Board's role is to standardize training and testing materials to ensure consistency across agencies. He explained that the Job Task Analysis would determine the extent to which current agency practices already meet proposed standards, and that the Board would work to minimize unnecessary duplication while ensuring statewide consistency.

Administrator McCraw described different certification models used in Arizona and Idaho, where he previously worked, noting that the Board would need to determine the appropriate approach for Hawaii. He stated that different levels of certification may be appropriate based on job duties, and that current officers would receive provisional certification with an 18-month transition period to meet any new requirements.

Gary Yamashiroya asked Administrator McCraw to explain how certification was handled in his previous positions. Administrator McCraw provided an overview of the Arizona and Idaho models and stated that the Board would need to determine which approach best fits Hawaii's needs. Chief Vanic asked about the timeline for incumbent officers to meet certification requirements. Administrator McCraw confirmed that the rules include an 18-month provisional certification period and that the Board would

develop a reasonable transition plan that does not create unnecessary burdens on agencies or officers nearing retirement.

V. Final Report from Permitted Interaction Groups (PIGs) on Draft Administrative Rules

A. Deferred Group Reports

Chair Dhakhwa stated that no PIG had finalized its assigned chapters and that all reports would be deferred. He encouraged members to continue working within their groups and to reach out to the Administrator or Chair if additional materials or resources were needed. He expressed a goal of having at least one group report back by February or March.

Administrator McCraw noted that he would be sending a letter to each agency requesting information on internal affairs processes and timelines for investigations, in response to a request from Group D.

B. Timeline for finalizing administrative rules for public hearing process

This item was addressed in conjunction with Item V.A.

VI. Follow-up Discussion and Action on Act 210 (2025) - Statewide Vehicular Pursuit Policy

A. Discussion of revised draft model policy

Chair Dhakhwa introduced the revised draft model vehicular pursuit policy and invited comments. He noted that he had reviewed the Policing Project's written testimony.

Gary Yamashiroya raised a concern about the definition of "primary jurisdiction" in Section 8D of the policy, particularly in situations involving concurrent jurisdiction between agencies. He asked how the policy would apply when multiple agencies with overlapping jurisdiction are involved in a pursuit.

Director Lambert and Chief Vanic discussed how pursuits involving state and county agencies would be handled operationally. Director Lambert explained that DLE is working to take ownership of incidents originating from state facilities and described coordination procedures with county agencies. Chief Vanic concurred and noted that agency policies would govern which agency maintains control based on the circumstances of each pursuit.

Gary Yamashiroya suggested changing the term "primary" to "initiating" to clarify which agency has authority to discontinue a pursuit. Director Lambert and Chief Vanic agreed that the initiating agency should maintain authority over the pursuit. Chair Dhakhwa acknowledged the concern and stated that the language would be revised.

B. Recommendations for finalization

Chair Dhakhwa asked for comments on the Policing Project's testimony regarding PIT maneuvers and other prohibited or restricted tactics. Chief Vanic noted that HPD's current policy prohibits such tactics. Assistant Chief Okamoto concurred with the comments made. Chief Mahuna stated that Hawaii County's policy also does not allow those tactics.

Assistant Chief Sherry Bird clarified that agencies may continue to compare the draft model policy with internal departmental policy.

Chair Dhakhwa asked whether members had positions on the data collection and publication rules referenced in the Policing Project's testimony. He stated that he had not included that language in the model policy because it is addressed separately in Act 210. He noted that for the next meeting, he would add a section addressing data collection so the Board could decide whether to include or exclude it from the model policy.

C. Timeline for formal adoption and agency implementation

This item was deferred pending continued review of the draft policy.

VII. Discussion of FY27 Budget Request - Legislative Update

A. Status of budget submission

Chair Dhakhwa provided an update on the FY27 budget request. He reported that of the six positions requested, three received tentative funding in the Governor's proposal: an administrative manager, a training and curriculum coordinator, and a lead investigative agent. He noted that the Board had requested \$919,700 and received \$758,840 in the Governor's budget, which includes funding for software in addition to the three positions.

B. Legislative coordination and strategy for 2026 session

Chair Dhakhwa stated that the certification extension bill would need to be addressed during the upcoming legislative session. He noted that he was waiting to hear from the Law Enforcement Coalition regarding whether they would include the Board's bill in their legislative package. No additional updates were provided by Board members.

C. Update on civil service exemption requests for proposed positions

Chair Dhakhwa reported that he had revised the civil service exemption request to include only the three positions that received funding, removing the three positions that were not funded. He stated that this approach would streamline the request, and that the Board could return next year with a stronger case for additional staffing after demonstrating progress with the initial positions.

VIII. Annual Report to the Legislature

A. Discussion of key findings and recommendations

Chair Dhakhwa noted that the annual report to the Legislature had been included in the Board packet and had been previously submitted. No additional discussion was offered.

IX. Discussion and Planning for 2026 Board Priorities

This item was addressed through discussion of other agenda items, including the Administrator's report, PIG progress, and budget updates.

X. Next Meeting

A. Discussion of scheduling for future meetings

Chair Dhakhwa stated that he would like to maintain monthly meetings for accountability and transparency. Director Lambert recommended establishing a fixed

meeting date to allow members to build their schedules around a consistent time, noting that his calendar fills up approximately 60 days in advance. He suggested identifying recurring commitments that conflict with potential meeting dates.

Chief Vanic stated that Thursdays generally work for him and that Wednesdays do not. Chief Mahuna noted that the State 911 Board meets at 9:00 a.m. on the second Thursday of each month, which has occasionally conflicted with LESB meetings.

Chair Dhakhwa proposed the third Thursday of each month. Board members confirmed their availability: Nicholas Schlapak, Chief Jason Redulla, Chief Mahuna, Chief Vanic, Director Lambert, Matthew Dvonch, Gary Yamashiroya, Assistant Chief Okamoto, Jared Redulla, and Assistant Chief Bird all indicated the third Thursday would work.

B. Scheduled date and time for January 2026 meeting

The Board agreed to schedule future meetings for the third Thursday of each month. Director Lambert indicated a preference for 10:00 a.m. to allow preparation time. The Chair confirmed that schedule.

C. Preliminary agenda planning for January meeting

Chair Dhakhwa stated that remaining PIG reports and continued pursuit policy reviews would be included on the January agenda.

The January 2026 meeting was set for January 15, 2026, at 10:00am.

XI. Open Forum

Chair Dhakhwa opened the floor for public comment on issues not on the agenda. No members of the public wished to speak.

XII. Adjournment

Motion: Director Mike Lambert

Second: Gary Yamashiroya and Assistant Chief Sherry Bird

Vote: Approved unanimously

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Victor R. McCraw
Administrator
Hawaii Law Enforcement Standards Board