

HAWAII LAW ENFORCEMENT STANDARDS BOARD

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2026, 10:00 A.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 10:07 a.m. on Thursday, January 15, 2026.

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:

- Matthew Dvnoch (Designee for Attorney General)
- Director Mike Lambert (Hawaii Department of Law Enforcement)
- Chief Jason Redulla (DOCARE, Designee for Chair, Board of Land and Natural Resources)
- Gary Yamashiroya (Designee for Director of Taxation)
- Brandon Nakasato (Designee for Chief of Police, Honolulu)
- Jan Pontanilla (Designee for Chief of Police, Maui)
- Mark Ozaki (Designee for Chief of Police, Kauai)
- Sherry Bird (County Law Enforcement Officer, Hawaii County Appointee)
- Jared Redulla (State Law Enforcement Officer, Non-County Appointee)
- Adrian Dhakhwa (Chair, Public Member, Honolulu County)
- Craig Tanaka (Public Member, Maui County)
- Don Faumuina (SHOPO-selected Member)

The following members were excused:

- Chief Reed Mahuna (Hawaii County Police Department)
- Harry Kubojiri (Public Member, Hawaii County)

B. Quorum Determination

Chair Dhakhwa determined and announced that a quorum was present, and the meeting proceeded with duly authorized business.

C. Welcome Board Member Don Faumuina

Chair Dhakhwa welcomed Don Faumuina as the new member selected by SHOPO to the Board.

II. Public Testimony

A. Oral Testimony

No members of the public in attendance requested to submit oral testimony.

B. Previously Submitted Written Testimony

There was no previously submitted written testimony.

III. Approval of December 11, 2025, Open Session Meeting Minutes

Chair Dhakhwa presented the December 11, 2025, Open Session Meeting Minutes for approval.

- **Motion:** Matthew Dvorch moved to approve December 11, 2025, Open Session Meeting Minutes as presented.
- **Second:** Don Faumuina
- **Discussion:** None
- **Vote:** The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote and the minutes were approved.

IV. Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) Reports - Review of Draft Administrative Rules

A. Reports and Status Changes

Chair Dhakhwa introduced the agenda item. No PIGs were ready to report.

Chair Dhakhwa noted that the PIG assignments and changes in ex-officio members and designees given the situation regarding interim chiefs in some of the counties, and the realities of task and attendance delegation over time, were of concern for the Board in maintaining sunshine law compliance.

1. Dissolution of Group D (Chapter 7 - Certification Action Procedures)

Chair Dhakhwa explained that Group D was originally created at the July 10, 2025, meeting and had included Chief Moszkowicz and Bobby Cavaco (then SHOPO President). He noted that Group D membership needed to be reconstituted to accommodate Sunshine Law requirements due to changes in Board membership.

Chair Dhakhwa called for a motion to dissolve Permitted Interaction Group D.

- **Motion:** Sherry Bird
- **Second:** Craig Tanaka
- **Vote:** The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

2. Establishment of New Group D (Chapter 7 - Certification Action Procedures)

Chair Dhakhwa proposed and called for a motion to establish a new Permitted Interaction Group D with new membership consisting of Reed Mahuna, Sherry Bird, and Don Faumuina.

- **Motion:** Craig Tanaka
- **Second:** Gary Yamashiroya
- **Vote:** The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Administrator McCraw provided an update, noting that he had withheld distribution of the agency information request results until Group D membership was settled. He stated that new Group D members should expect an email with a link to agency policies related to draft rule Chapter 7 later that day or the following day.

No report was received from Group D.

3. Discussion Regarding Group B (Chapters 3, 4, 5 - Training Standards, Instructor Standards, Continuing Education)

Chair Dhakhwa noted that Group B, assigned to review Chapters 3, 4, and 5, would face similar board member assignment issues. The original membership created at the July 10, 2025, meeting included Chief Ke, who was the interim chief on Kauai at that time. With the leadership change and Chief Tai coming in, the Board would need to go through a similar procedure to update Group B membership.

Chair Dhakhwa directed Administrator McCraw to send similar information requests to all agencies regarding training standards, instructor standards, and continuing education standards to assist Group B with Chapters 3, 4, and 5. He also noted that professional conduct standards information would help Group C with their assigned chapters.

Jan Pontanilla (Maui designee) informed the Board that Assistant Chief Gregg Okamoto had also retired and that Maui Police Department was in the process of filling that position. She noted that Assistant Chief Joy Medeiros was currently taking over until the switchover.

No report was received from PIG B.

4. Clarification on Ex-Officio Members and PIG Designees

Gary Yamashiroya asked for clarification on whether ex-officio members could have their delegates participate in PIG groups without going through the formal reconstitution process each time membership changes. He noted that Director Suganuma was originally named to Group A and he (Yamashiroya) had filled in as his designee and suggested that clarifying this issue could avoid the need for repeated approvals when agency representatives are swapped.

Chair Dhakhwa sought guidance from Deputy Attorney General Candace Park. Ms. Park indicated that the proposed approach was acceptable. Chair Dhakhwa stated that moving

forward, when assigning ex-officio members to PIG groups, the Board would list the position (e.g., "Department of Taxation or designee") rather than naming the individual person. Gary Yamashiroya confirmed this approach would address his concern.

V. Legislative Update

A. Updates from Recent Legislative Informational Hearings

Chair Dhakhwa reported that he, Administrator McCraw, and First Deputy Attorney General Matthew Dvonch attended the Senate Ways and Means informational briefing on the Board's budget on Friday, January 9, 2026. The House Finance hearing was held on Tuesday, January 13, 2026. He noted that they answered questions from committee members, and there were no questions at the Friday briefing.

Chair Dhakhwa acknowledged that Representative David Tarnas, Chair of the House Judiciary Committee, attended the House Finance briefing even though he is not a member of the Finance Committee. Representative Tarnas helped draw attention to the Board's funding needs and the certification deadline extension issue.

B. Certification Deadline Extension Bill

Chair Dhakhwa explained that under the current reading of HRS Chapter 139, all law enforcement officers must be certified by July 1, 2026. He stated that, as all Board members know, this deadline will not be met. The Board has put forward a bill, and the Law Enforcement Coalition agreed to include the extension bill in their legislative package. The proposed new certification deadline would be pushed back to July 1, 2028.

Chair Dhakhwa emphasized the importance of this extension, noting that if it does not pass, he could foresee court cases where defense attorneys challenge their clients' arrests on the grounds that the arrests were effectuated by law enforcement officers who were not certified according to law. He expressed hope that the bill would move forward through the Legislature without problems this session.

No additional comments or discussion were offered by Board members.

VI. Model Pursuit Policy Update - Approval

A. Discussion of the Current Draft

Chair Dhakhwa noted that everyone should have received the updated version of the draft model vehicular pursuit policy, which still showed tracked changes to illustrate the thought process behind the amendments. He stated that no testimony was received from the Policing Project (NYU) or the ACLU, and that most of their previously expressed concerns had been addressed.

Chair Dhakhwa noted that not all of the NYU Policing Project's suggestions were incorporated. Specifically, they had requested a complete ban on PIT maneuvers. He surveyed the agencies regarding their current policies:

- **Honolulu Police Department** Chair Dhakhwa commented “My understanding is HPD already prohibits [PIT maneuvers], according to their department policy.”
- **Department of Law Enforcement:** Director Mike Lambert confirmed DLE bars PIT maneuvers as a matter of policy.
- **Maui Police Department:** Jan Pontanilla stated Maui does not do PIT maneuvers (hitting or contact with the vehicle). She noted that MPD is implementing "pinch and blocking," which is a no-contact cornering technique, to be introduced in the next recruit class.
- **Hawaii County Police Department:** Sherry Bird confirmed HCPD does not allow PIT maneuvers.
- **Kauai Police Department:** Deputy Chief Mark Ozaki confirmed KPD does not do PIT maneuvers.
- **DOCARE:** Chief Jason Redulla confirmed DOCARE officers are not allowed to perform PIT maneuvers.

Chair Dhakhwa acknowledged that all law enforcement agencies already have safeguards in place that go above and beyond the model policy and statute. He recognized the departments for having these safeguards in place while noting that improvements can always be made.

Regarding Section 7 (prohibited restrictions and tactics), Chair Dhakhwa noted the provision on shooting at vehicles, stating it was worth mentioning in light of recent events in Minnesota. He explained that the statute and many agency policies already prohibit shooting into a vehicle unless deadly force is otherwise justified (imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury) and there is a reasonable alternative, including avoiding the path of the vehicle. He noted he had added a second sentence stating that officers shall not place themselves in the path of a vehicle in order to justify discharging their firearm. No objections were raised.

Regarding Section 8 (interjurisdictional pursuits), Chair Dhakhwa noted that at the previous meeting the Board had addressed Gary Yamashiroya's concern by adding language about the "initiating law enforcement agency" rather than just "primary jurisdiction." He asked how communication is currently handled between state and county agencies when a suspect flees from a state facility (such as the airport or beach) onto county roads.

Director Mike Lambert acknowledged that communication is not handled well currently, as agencies are not on the same radio channel and communication must go through dispatchers. Chair Dhakhwa confirmed that dispatch-to-dispatch communication is the current practice and likely the best approach moving forward. Director Lambert agreed.

Jan Pontanilla noted that Maui has added ramming to their policy; however, it is only used in deadly force situations. Chair Dhakhwa confirmed this would appear to be acceptable under the model policy since deadly force must be otherwise justified.

Chair Dhakhwa noted that he changed the reporting requirements to direct reports to the Department of the Attorney General rather than to the Board, to be consistent with the statute. He added language that the Board should receive a copy of each agency's report and be notified of any policy changes.

B. Motion to Approve

Chair Dhakhwa called for a motion to approve the model vehicular pursuit policy, subject to final cleanup (removing tracked changes and comments) for publication.

- **Motion:** Jared Redulla
- **Second:** Sherry Bird
- **Vote:** The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Chair Dhakhwa acknowledged that the Board had passed its first model policy.

VII. Next Meeting

Chair Dhakhwa confirmed that, as agreed at the previous meeting, future meetings would be held on the third Thursday of every month at 10:00 a.m. The next meeting was scheduled for February 19, 2026.

VIII. Open Forum

Chair Dhakhwa opened the floor for public comment on issues not on the agenda for consideration at the Board's next meeting.

Technical staff (Shaun Hirai) confirmed that no members of the public at the public location or logged in virtually wished to testify or add anything.

IX. Adjournment

- **Motion:** Craig Tanaka
- **Second:** Gary Yamashiroya
- **Vote:** Approved unanimously

The meeting was adjourned at 10:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Victor R. McCraw
Administrator
Hawaii Law Enforcement Standards Board