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GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
LAW ENFORCEMENT STANDARDS BOARD
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February 3, 2026

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415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Chair Carol Fukunaga
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Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
State Capitol, Conference Room 225
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: SB2593 Relating to the Law Enforcement Standards Board

Chairs Elefante and Fukunaga, and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii Law Enforcement Standards Board (LESB) submits this testimony in strong support of SB 2593. This bill amends HRS sections 76-16(b)(41) and 139-3(6), and seeks to exempt newly created staff positions from civil service laws and collective bargaining.

The administrative manager, training and curriculum coordinator, and lead investigative agent positions will be critical to getting the LESB to meet the proposed certification deadline of July 1, 2028. The Board's work is specialized in nature and involves security, confidentiality, and professional judgment that are not characteristic of general state employment. The Board's responsibilities require staff who can be entrusted with sensitive information, exercise independent professional judgment, and apply standards uniformly across jurisdictions and agencies statewide.

The security and confidentiality requirements associated with this work, combined with the need to attract highly qualified candidates, justify the exclusion of the identified positions from the civil service laws and collective bargaining. From the Board's perspective, this structure is essential to ensure that the individuals entrusted with these responsibilities can carry them out without divided obligations, with an appearance of impartiality, and with full accountability to the Board's regulatory purpose.

For these reasons, the Hawaii Law Enforcement Standards Board strongly supports SB 2593 and asks that it move forward.

Sincerely,

Adrian Dhakhwa
Chair, Hawaii Law Enforcement Standards Board