



**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
REPORT TO THE 2012 LEGISLATURE**

**ACT 215 (2011)**

**The Department of Public Safety  
Sheriff Task Force Recommendations  
Related to Creating a Department of the Sheriff**

**December 2011**

## **ACT 215, Sessions Law of Hawaii 2011**

### **Task Force Recommendations for the Creation of the Department of the Sheriff**

SB 215 S.B.11, S.D. 2, H.D. 2 (Act 215) calls for the Department of Public Safety to establish a committee to report on the merits of creating a Department of the Sheriff and to provide a report to the 2012 Legislature.

The purpose of this Act is to require the Department of Public Safety to establish a task force (committee) that will:

- (1) Determine whether the Department of Public Safety is capable of supporting and maintaining the functions of the Sheriff Division;
- (2) Study the feasibility and essential need to create a new Department of the Sheriff that would assume the duties and functions of the Sheriff Division of the Department of Public Safety; and
- (3) Create a plan for the establishment of a new department only if the aforementioned task force study determines that the new department is feasible, essential, and capable of supporting and maintaining the duties and functions of the Sheriff Division.

The Committee's first meeting was held on November 1, 2011 and the following representatives were in attendance:

- (1) Sheriff Division: Sheriff Shawn Tsuha (Chairperson);
- (2) Department of Public Safety: Director Jodie Maesaka-Hirata;
- (3) Department of Human and Resources Development: Lisa Hodges;
- (4) Department of Budget and Finance: Luis Salaveria;
- (6) Department of the Attorney General: Supervising AG Diane Taira;
- (7) Office of the Court Administrator: Rodney Maile;
- (8) HGEA Field Services Officer: Kevin Mulligan.

The Committee determined that priority should be given to recent issues raised by the 2010 Legislative Audit. The audit recommended that the Department of Public Safety address the following issues or needs:

- (1) Perform a Risk Assessment of each section of the Sheriff Division;
- (2) Build on the Risk Assessment to develop a comprehensive strategic plan for the Sheriff Division that, at a minimum, meets the requirements of ACT 100, SLH 1999;
- (3) Collaborate with the Legislature and Administration to review statutes affecting the Sheriff Division, based upon the above Risk Assessment;
- (4) Draft Administrative Rules that define and determine the responsibilities and jurisdiction of the Sheriff Division;
- (5) Seek accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, INC.

In addition, given the current fiscal climate of the State, and using previously gathered data from the Department of Public Safety's Response to Act 83, SLH 2003, we feel that the separation of the Sheriff Division from the Department of Public Safety is not feasible at this time. The Committee does recognize that a fully autonomous State Law Enforcement Organization may be a futuristic goal. The Committee requires additional time to incorporate and address the fundamental challenges the Sheriff Division faces as identified by the audit, and the recent security needs assessment of the Judiciary, to formulate a comprehensive report.