



## **SHOPO PRESS CONFERENCE**

Aloha and thank you for coming today,

The last few months have been a trying time for our Law Enforcement officers. These incidents not only affect the victim's families, but all of our officers who are involved.

Yesterday, a Grand Jury was convened and the Prosecutors office presented the Kalakaua Officer involved shooting (OIS). The Grand Jury came back with a NO BILL verdict.

As I said before, I understand and trust the process, I especially trust the training that we go through to prepare our officers for these types of situations. Part of the process is an internal investigation by our department, which is still ongoing. But as far as yesterday's Grand Jury, our officer's decision making and actions were re-enforced by the NO BILL verdict.

We have seen more violent crimes against our communities to include attacks on our officers who protect them.

We are out there 24/7 protecting our communities. I say "OUR" is because we too live in these communities, we have a vested interest in our neighborhoods because it's where we live, our parents live, our grandparents live.

We have around 1800 sworn personnel on Oahu, maybe half of that in uniform patrolling our streets, protecting our communities.

We are protecting approximately 1 Million residents and tourists daily, who live and visit this island.

Here in Honolulu, we are 300 plus short in police officers. Our outside counties are also short staffed. Now we are experiencing our officers leaving for mainland departments because of our high cost of living. Recruitment nationwide is taking a hit, no one wants to do this job anymore, and this job is not appealing to our current generation. With the constant attacks on our officers via the media, social media...I don't blame them.

It takes a special person to become a Police Officer, and this job is not for everyone.

We are tasked with multiple duties...we are counselors...social workers...medics...lifeguards...rescuers...

There is no question about our commitment to our communities. Our officers have given their lives for these communities that we protect. Tell me what profession does that and gets pounded by the media and key board warriors out there for doing our jobs protecting you.

We are committed to our duties and will continue to do the best job we can protecting our communities that we live in.

MALCOLM LUTU  
SHOPO President  
June 10, 2021