

ISLAND SECURITY POLICY INSTITUTE

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POLICY BRIEF

The Training Gap

Why Island Law Enforcement Agencies Cannot Access the Professional Development Their Officers Need

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RESEARCH INDEPENDENCE STATEMENT

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **Geographic distance from training centers, travel costs, and small agency budgets systematically deny island officers access to the specialized investigative training that continental counterparts take for granted.**
- **The training gap compounds over careers — officers who cannot access professional development fall behind evolving criminal methodologies, reducing investigative effectiveness and increasing agency liability exposure.**
- **Virtual training infrastructure investment and a shared training cooperative can close the gap without requiring travel.**

A detective in a small Pacific Island territory agency identified financial crime indicators suggesting a sophisticated money laundering operation. The nearest relevant training program was offered by the FBI's field office in Honolulu — a flight away, with a week-long program that her agency's budget could not cover. The investigation was closed without resolution.¹

Policy Recommendations

1. Establish a Pacific Island and Hawaii Law Enforcement Training Cooperative pooling agency training budgets and developing island-deployable training capabilities.
2. Fund virtual training infrastructure for island law enforcement agencies — live virtual platforms with connectivity infrastructure grants addressing bandwidth requirements for effective participation.[FN]
3. Require federal law enforcement training programs accessible to state and local agencies to develop virtual delivery options meeting island agency access requirements.

NOTES AND REFERENCES

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The Island Security Policy Institute (ISPI) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan research organization based in Honolulu, Hawaii. ISPI produces practitioner-led research, policy analysis, training programs, and commissioned research on public safety, emergency preparedness, insider threat, and security policy for island and coastal communities worldwide. ISPI is registered as a federal contractor on SAM.gov under NAICS 541720. Warren Pulley, Founder & Executive Director.

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