



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

DAVID Y. IGE
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DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oct. 1, 2015

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY NAMES NEW STATE SHERIFF

HONOLULU – The Department of Public Safety (PSD) today announced the appointment of Renee Sonobe Hong as State Sheriff Division Administrator. Sonobe Hong will lead the department's Sheriff Division, effective October 16, 2015.

"Renee will bring valuable experience in her new role as Sheriff," said PSD Director Nolan Espinda. "She adds a wealth of criminal justice experience to our department. Her experience in criminal prosecution will be an invaluable asset in widening and professionalizing the scope of law enforcement actions routinely performed by our deputy sheriffs statewide. She will provide effective leadership, accountability, and she will ensure that the division operates efficiently."

Sonobe Hong most recently served as a Deputy Attorney General for the Public Safety Department, Hawaiian Home Lands and the Housing Division of the Attorney General's Office. Before that she served as First Deputy Corporation Counsel for the City and County of Honolulu Department of the Corporation Counsel. She also served 20 years (1991-2011) with the Prosecutor's office in various roles including Misdemeanor/Traffic Division Chief and Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the Sexual Assault Team.

"One of the top priorities of our Sheriff Division is to become CALEA certified. CALEA is a top accreditation authority and is the primary method for an agency to voluntarily demonstrate its commitment to excellence in law enforcement," said Shawn Tsoha, Deputy Director for Law Enforcement. "We are fortunate to have someone like Renee, who has the legal expertise and leadership capability to help the Sheriff Division achieve this goal".

CALEA stands for the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. The purpose of CALEA's accreditation program is to improve the delivery of public safety services, primarily by: maintaining a body of standards, developed by public safety practitioners, covering a wide range of up-to-date public safety initiatives;

establishing and administering an accreditation process; and recognizing professional excellence.

For more information on CALEA: <http://www.calea.org/>

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