

Informational Briefing: Clean Slate in Hawai'i

House Committee on Judiciary and Hawai'ian Affairs
September 16, 2025

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Agenda

- Introduction to The Clean Slate Initiative & Clean Slate Policy
- National Landscape and Research
- Clean Slate in Hawai'i
- Ways We Can Support Your State

About The Clean Slate Initiative

The Clean Slate Initiative (CSI) is working across the country, and in Congress, to **pass** and **implement** laws that **automate record sealing** for people with **eligible records** who have completed their sentence and remained crime-free, and to **expand who is eligible** for sealing.

12+ STATES

and Washington D.C.,
have passed
Clean Slate laws.

16 MILLION+

people in America are
**eligible for full or
partial record sealing**
across those “Clean
Slate” states.

STRATEGY



Advocate for Clean Slate
Legislation



Implement Clean Slate
Legislation



Redefine the Narrative Around
People with Records

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What is a Clean Slate Law?

As defined by The Clean Slate Initiative:

- A Clean Slate bill requires a **state-initiated process to limit public access** to non-conviction/arrest and certain conviction records for individuals who have completed their sentences and **remained crime-free for a specified period of time**.
- This means to qualify as a “Clean Slate” bill, the bill must:
 - Limit public access to both non-convictions and certain convictions, and
 - Make the process by which these records are restricted a state-initiated, automated process that, in general, does not involve manual review of individual records.

What Makes a Clean Slate Law Effective?

Clean Slate policies provide second chances for people who have completed their sentences and remained crime-free.

An effective Clean Slate policy should:

- ✓ Be government-initiated, without requiring a petition
- ✓ Use streamlined processes that harness technology to identify eligible records and limits public access to them
- ✓ Apply to non-conviction and certain conviction records

At a Glance: A Clean Slate Policy Has Three Key Steps



Identify Eligible Records



Notify Relevant Agencies



Agencies Update
(Restrict Access to Records)

CODE *for* AMERICA

Our Partners at Code for America
will Dive More Into This

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National Landscape & Research

What we know about the impacts of Clean Slate policies on people, families, and public safety

- Clean Slate States
- Bipartisan Support for Clean Slate
- Barriers That Records Create
- Impact of Clean Slate

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The Clean Slate Initiative



Clean Slate Laws Have Passed in 12 States & Washington D.C.

Over 16 million people with records are on a path to seeing the benefit of Clean Slate policy.

California: 6,240,000

Colorado: 621,000

Connecticut: 308,000

Delaware: 84,000

Michigan: 912,000

Minnesota: 632,000

New Jersey: 1,492,000

New York: 3,060,000

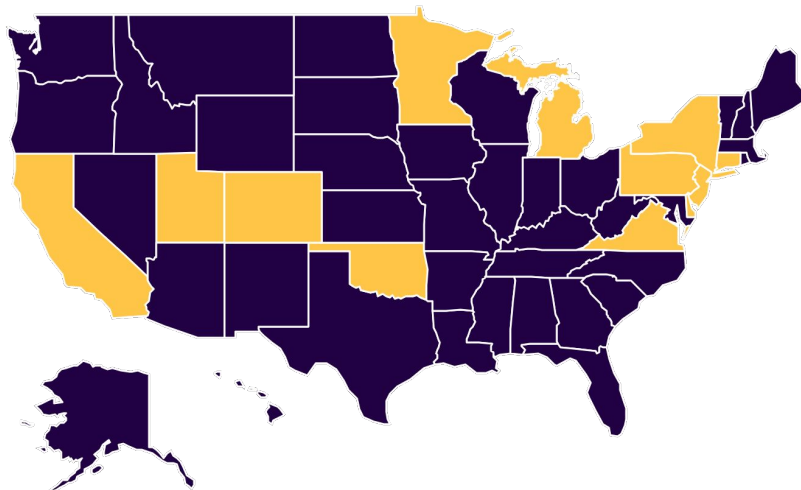
Oklahoma: 372,000

Pennsylvania: 1,665,000

Utah: 266,000

Virginia: 523,000

Washington D.C.: 95,000



Notes: Data for Michigan as of April 2024, Michigan State Police. All other impact estimates from CSI.
See cleanslateinitiative.org/data-methodology for detailed methodology.

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Clean Slate Has Bipartisan Support Across the Country

- The majority of clean slate bills passed to date included **Republican and Democrat co-sponsors**.
- We are **actively working in over half the country and in Congress** — supporting campaigns and implementation.



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What Do We Know About the Barriers Records Create?

94%

94% of employers and 90% of landlords conduct background checks. *(National Consumer Law Center)*

50%

Having an arrest or conviction record reduces job interview callbacks by 50% regardless of qualifications, experience, or the nature of the offense. *(Pager, Western, & Sugie, 2009)*

**\$78-87
Billion**

An estimated \$78-87 billion are lost from the U.S. GDP every year due to shutting people with records out of the workforce. *(Bucknor & Barber, 2016)*

**\$372.3
Billion**

The total lost earnings for Americans impacted by conviction or incarceration is \$372.3 billion annually.
(Craigie, Grawert, & Kimble, 2020)

What Does the Research Say About the Impact of Limiting Access to Records on Public Safety?



Low Recidivism & Low Risk of Repeat Offenders:

- Research in Michigan shows that people with expunged/sealed/limited public access records are less likely to recidivate after five years than the general public. ([Harvard Law Review, 2020](#))
- In California, only 2% of people who receive this record relief are expected to be convicted of a new disqualifying offense within five years. ([California Policy Lab, University of California, 2024](#))
- After around 4 to 7 years without criminal activity, most individuals with records pose no more threat to public safety than the general population. ([Criminology, 2009](#))
- Most people with a conviction have only one; 75% of people with a first conviction do not have a second conviction within ten years. ([RAND Corporation, 2024](#))

What Does the Research Say About the Impact of Limiting Access to Records on Public Safety? (cont.)



Improvement in Employment & Housing Opportunities That Keep People Safer:

- Limiting access to record helps people earn a second chance by removing long-term barriers to employment, housing, and stability, key factors in preventing future crime. (*Punishment and Society*, 2016)
- In Michigan, people who received an expungement saw a 22% increase in wages in just one year. (*University of Michigan Law School*)



Support for Law Enforcement:

- Clean Slate laws reduce the administrative burden on courts and prosecutors, freeing up resources that would otherwise be spent on unnecessary hearings for individuals who have already proven their rehabilitation.
- This allows prosecutors' offices to focus on prosecuting current crime concerns and addressing present threats to public safety.

Clean Slate in Hawai'i

How We Can Assist

- Community-Led & Safety-Focused Policy
- Our Approach

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Clean Slate Hawai'i: Community-Led & Safety Focused

While Clean Slate laws share a common foundation, each one is shaped by the priorities of the community it serves and tailored to the technical and political context of that state.

IN THE POLICY DESIGN PROCESS, YOU CAN CONSIDER:

- **Who** qualifies for relief
- **Which records** are included
- **When** records become eligible ("waiting periods")
- **Who** can use and view limited access records

ACCESS REMAINS WHERE HAWAII CHOOSES, SUCH AS:

- Law enforcement agencies
- Prosecutors
- Courts & judicial officers
- Corrections & probation/parole
- Certain employers or licensing bodies
- Child welfare agencies
- Firearms licensing

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CSI Support for Clean Slate in Hawai'i

We're ready to support efforts to improve lives for thousands of people in Hawai'i through:



Policy Development

- Assist with building out or assessing eligibility (offense types, waiting periods, disqualifiers) grounded in evidence and data.
- Help design for automated, state-initiated record clearance, built with Hawai'i in mind.
- Draft model bill and rulemaking roadmap.
- Bring knowledge of national Clean Slate policy picture, best practices from states that have already approved and implemented Clean Slate.



Systems Readiness (Data & Tech)

- Map end-to-end data flows across courts, criminal history, corrections, and law enforcement.
- Support designing a system to address matching, deduplication, and other practical data challenges.
- Provide a Tech Blueprint and support for outlining how a Hawai'i Clean Slate program would function from a tech and systems perspective.

CSI Support for Clean Slate in Hawai‘i (cont.)



Implementation & Change Management

- Provide specific Clean Slate info sessions for clerks, prosecutors, public defenders and records staff.
- Plan for the sustainability of the policy post-implementation date.



What You Get from CSI

- Policy expertise (bill text, systems knowledge, best practices/things to avoid from other states with this policy).
- Tech Blueprinting and Support (data maps, systems recommendations, troubleshooting data issues).
- Implementation support and briefings to the Task Force, Legislature, and other stakeholders.

Thanks for joining us!

**For more information, please contact
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