



1 "Abduction" means a case in which a person is unwillingly  
2 removed from the person's environment without the person's  
3 permission or under circumstances that indicate that the person  
4 is in physical danger.

5 "At-risk missing person" means a person whose whereabouts  
6 are currently unknown and circumstances indicate that the person  
7 may be at risk of injury or death, including a person who has  
8 Alzheimer's disease, has suicidal ideations, has a mental  
9 illness, is elderly, or is disabled and on life-saving  
10 medications.

11 "Child" means a person under the age of eighteen years.

12 "DNA" means deoxyribonucleic acid.

13 "Familial relationship" means a relationship that  
14 establishes two individuals as members of a family.

15 "Family member" means:

- 16 (1) A person related by blood, legal custody, or marriage;  
17 (2) A child who lives with an adult and for whom the adult  
18 permanently assumes and discharges parental  
19 responsibility; or  
20 (3) A person with whom the individual shares or has  
21 shared, within the last year, a mutual residence.



1 "Help locate" means an investigation that is conducted when  
2 a reporting individual contacts a law enforcement agency to  
3 request assistance to find another person with whom there has  
4 not been contact.

5 "Law enforcement agency" means any county police  
6 department.

7 "Missing person" means a person who is missing and who is  
8 under a physical or mental disability that subjects the person  
9 to personal and immediate danger.

10 § -2 Missing person report. (a) All law enforcement  
11 agencies within the State shall accept without delay any report  
12 of a missing person. No law enforcement agency shall refuse to  
13 accept a missing person report on the basis that:

- 14 (1) The missing person is an adult;
- 15 (2) The circumstances do not indicate foul play;
- 16 (3) The person has been missing for a short period of  
17 time;
- 18 (4) The person has been missing for a long period of time;
- 19 (5) The reporting individual cannot provide all of the  
20 information requested by the law enforcement agency;
- 21 or



1 (6) The reporting individual lacks a familial or other  
2 relationship with the missing person.

3 (b) All law enforcement agencies shall accept missing  
4 persons reports made in person. An initial report may be made  
5 by telephone; provided that the law enforcement agency shall  
6 require confirmation in person.

7 (c) In accepting a missing persons report, a law  
8 enforcement agency shall gather information relating to the  
9 missing person, including:

- 10 (1) The name of the missing person, including alternative  
11 names used;
- 12 (2) The date of birth;
- 13 (3) Identifying marks, such as birthmarks, moles, tattoos,  
14 and scars;
- 15 (4) Height and weight;
- 16 (5) Gender;
- 17 (6) Race;
- 18 (7) Current hair color and true or natural hair color;
- 19 (8) Eye color;
- 20 (9) Prosthetics, surgical implants, or cosmetic implants;
- 21 (10) Physical anomalies;
- 22 (11) Home address;



- 1 (12) Driver license number or social security number;
- 2 (13) A photograph or photographs of the missing person,  
3 with the approximate date the photograph was taken;
- 4 (14) A description of the clothing the missing person was  
5 believed to be wearing;
- 6 (15) A description of items that might be with the missing  
7 person, such as jewelry, accessories, shoes, or boots;
- 8 (16) Information on the missing person's electronic  
9 communication devices such as mobile phone numbers and  
10 email addresses;
- 11 (17) The reasons why the reporting person believes that the  
12 person is missing;
- 13 (18) Name and location of the missing person's school or  
14 employer;
- 15 (19) Name and location of the missing person's dentist and  
16 primary care physician;
- 17 (20) Circumstances that may indicate that the disappearance  
18 was not voluntary;
- 19 (21) Circumstances that may indicate that the missing  
20 person may be at risk of injury or death;
- 21 (22) A description of the possible means of transportation  
22 of the missing person, including make, model, color,



- 1 license, and vehicle identification number of a
- 2 vehicle;
- 3 (23) Identifying information about a known or possible
- 4 abductor, and about any person last seen with the
- 5 missing person including:
  - 6 (A) Name;
  - 7 (B) Physical description;
  - 8 (C) Date of birth;
  - 9 (D) Identifying marks;
  - 10 (E) A description of possible means of
  - 11 transportation, including the make, model, color,
  - 12 license, and vehicle identification number of a
  - 13 vehicle;
  - 14 (F) Known associates; and
  - 15 (G) Contact information such as home or work address
  - 16 and home or work telephone numbers;
- 17 (24) Date of last contact with the missing person; and
- 18 (25) Other information that can aid in locating the missing
- 19 person.

20 § -3 Help locate. Time permitting, a help locate shall  
21 be initiated whenever a law enforcement agency receives a report



1 requesting assistance to find a person under the following  
2 circumstances:

3 (1) There is no evidence that the missing person is in the  
4 law enforcement agency's jurisdiction;

5 (2) The reporting individual is calling from outside the  
6 State and there is no evidence to indicate that the  
7 missing person is in danger; or

8 (3) The circumstances indicate that the disappearance is  
9 voluntary and that the person has capacity and is  
10 capable of caring for the person's self.

11 § -4 Notification and follow-up action. (a) The law  
12 enforcement agency may provide the reporting individual, a  
13 family member of the missing person, or other person in a  
14 position to help the law enforcement agency locate the missing  
15 person, with general information about the handling of the  
16 missing person case or about intended efforts in the case;  
17 provided that the law enforcement agency determines that  
18 disclosure will not adversely affect its ability to locate or  
19 protect the missing person or to apprehend or prosecute any  
20 person criminally involved in the disappearance.

21 (b) The law enforcement agency shall advise the reporting  
22 individual, the family member of the missing person, or other



1 person in a position to help locate the missing person to  
2 promptly contact the law enforcement agency to provide  
3 additional information and materials that will aid in locating  
4 the missing person. The law enforcement agency shall also  
5 notify the person of the specific information or materials  
6 needed, such as credit or debit cards and other banking  
7 information, and records of mobile phone use.

8 (c) When deemed appropriate by the law enforcement agency,  
9 the law enforcement agency shall notify the reporting individual  
10 that the agency may seek DNA samples from family members of the  
11 missing person and that any DNA samples provided for the missing  
12 person case are provided on a voluntary basis and will be used  
13 solely to help locate or identify the missing person.

14 (d) If a person identified in a missing person report  
15 remains missing after three months, the law enforcement agency  
16 shall attempt to obtain:

17 (1) DNA samples from family members and from the missing  
18 person along with any needed documentation, including  
19 consent forms, required for the use of local, state,  
20 or national DNA databases including the Federal Bureau  
21 of Investigation's National DNA Index System;



1 (2) Additional photographs of the missing person that may  
2 aid the investigation or identification;

3 (3) Fingerprints; and

4 (4) Dental information and x-rays and an authorization to  
5 release dental or skeletal x-rays of the missing  
6 person; provided that the law enforcement agency may  
7 wait longer than three months before attempting to  
8 collect dental information and x-rays and an  
9 authorization to release dental or skeletal x-rays of  
10 the missing person as the law enforcement agency deems  
11 appropriate.

12 (e) The law enforcement agency shall not be required to  
13 obtain written authorization before it releases publicly any  
14 photograph that would aid in the investigation or identification  
15 of the missing person.

16 (f) Based on the results of an investigation, an  
17 investigator shall determine which:

18 (1) DNA samples from at-risk missing persons cases  
19 pursuant to section -5 shall be immediately  
20 forwarded; and

21 (2) DNA samples shall be forwarded at a later date to the  
22 appropriate forensic sciences laboratory for analysis,



1 processing, and recording in the missing persons  
2 database of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's  
3 National DNA Index System; provided that a DNA sample  
4 shall be forwarded within three months.

5 (g) Subsection (d) shall not preclude a law enforcement  
6 agency from attempting to obtain the materials identified in  
7 this section before the expiration of the three month period.

8 (h) A law enforcement agency shall direct its missing  
9 persons unit to routinely review old missing persons case files  
10 for appropriate cases from which to submit DNA samples for  
11 analysis, processing, and recording in the missing persons  
12 database of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National DNA  
13 Index System.

14 § -5 At-risk missing persons. (a) A law enforcement  
15 agency shall consider, but shall not be limited to, the  
16 following criteria in determining whether an individual is an  
17 at-risk missing person:

- 18 (1) The person is missing as a result of abduction by a  
19 stranger;
- 20 (2) The person is missing under suspicious circumstances;
- 21 (3) The person is missing under known dangerous  
22 circumstances;



- 1 (4) There is evidence that the person is at risk because:
- 2 (A) The missing person is in need of medical
- 3 attention or prescription medication;
- 4 (B) The missing person does not have a pattern of
- 5 running away or disappearing;
- 6 (C) The missing person is under the age of eighteen;
- 7 or
- 8 (D) The missing person has been the subject of past
- 9 threats or acts of violence; or
- 10 (5) Any other factor that, in the judgment of the law
- 11 enforcement agency, may determine that the missing
- 12 person is at risk.

13 (b) Upon receiving a missing person report, a law  
14 enforcement agency shall immediately determine whether there is  
15 a basis to determine that the missing person is an at-risk  
16 missing person. If a law enforcement agency has previously  
17 determined that a missing person is not an at-risk missing  
18 person, but obtains new information, it shall immediately  
19 determine whether the new information indicates that the missing  
20 person is an at-risk missing person.

1 (c) Risk assessments shall be performed no later than  
2 twelve hours after the initial missing person report is filed or  
3 the new information is provided to the law enforcement agency.

4 (d) Law enforcement agencies shall establish written  
5 protocols for the handling of missing person cases for the  
6 purposes of this chapter.

7 (e) When a law enforcement agency determines that a  
8 missing person is an at-risk missing person and the law  
9 enforcement agency concludes that the missing person may have  
10 left its jurisdiction, it shall notify the other law enforcement  
11 agencies. The law enforcement agency shall immediately provide  
12 to the other law enforcement agencies the information most  
13 likely to aid in the location and safe return of the at-risk  
14 missing person, and shall provide as soon as practicable all  
15 other information obtained relating to the case.

16 (f) Any law enforcement agency that receives notification  
17 from another law enforcement agency shall notify officers within  
18 its jurisdiction to issue lookouts for the missing person or a  
19 suspected abductor.

20 (g) The law enforcement agencies shall immediately enter  
21 all collected information relating to the missing person case in  
22 available local, state, federal, and national databases. The



1 information shall conform with applicable guidelines relating to  
2 the databases, and shall be entered as follows:

3 (1) A missing person report, as well as relevant  
4 information provided in the report, shall be entered  
5 into the National Crime Information Center database  
6 within two months after the missing person report is  
7 received. If there is information that leads an  
8 investigator to believe that the missing person may  
9 have left the investigator's jurisdiction, the  
10 information may be immediately placed in the National  
11 Crime Information Center database. Supplemental  
12 information in at-risk missing person cases should be  
13 entered as soon as practicable; and

14 (2) All DNA samples shall be immediately forwarded to the  
15 appropriate forensic sciences laboratory for analysis,  
16 processing, and recording in the missing persons  
17 database of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's  
18 National DNA Index System.

19 (h) All law enforcement agencies shall ensure that a  
20 person entering data relating to medical or dental records into  
21 criminal justice databases is specifically trained to enter the  
22 information into these databases. The law enforcement agencies



1 shall use either a person with specific expertise in medical or  
2 dental records for this purpose or consult with the chief  
3 medical examiner of the city and county of Honolulu to ensure  
4 the accuracy and completeness of information entered into the  
5 databases.

6       **§ -6 Reporting of unidentified persons and human**

7 **remains.** (a) The county medical examiner or coroner shall  
8 provide information to law enforcement agencies about best  
9 practices for handling death scene investigations and shall  
10 identify and disseminate any publications or training  
11 opportunities that may be available to law enforcement agencies  
12 or law enforcement officers concerning the handling of death  
13 scene investigations.

14       (b) After performing any death scene investigation deemed  
15 appropriate under the circumstances, the official with custody  
16 of the human remains shall ensure that the human remains are  
17 delivered to the county medical examiner or coroner.

18       (c) Any person with custody of human remains that are not  
19 identified within twenty-four hours of discovery shall promptly  
20 notify the office of the county medical examiner or coroner of  
21 the location of those remains.



1 (d) If the person with custody of remains cannot determine  
2 whether or not the remains found are human, the person shall  
3 notify the county medical examiner or coroner of the existence  
4 of possible human remains.

5 § -7 Responsibilities for the identification of  
6 unidentified persons or human remains. (a) If the official  
7 with custody of the human remains is not a medical examiner or  
8 coroner, the official shall promptly transfer the unidentified  
9 remains to the medical examiner or coroner to determine the  
10 identity of the human remains.

11 (b) Notwithstanding any other action deemed appropriate  
12 for the handling of the human remains, the county medical  
13 examiner or coroner shall make reasonable attempts to identify  
14 promptly any human remains. These actions may include but are  
15 not limited to obtaining:

- 16 (1) Photographs of the human remains;
- 17 (2) Dental or skeletal x-rays;
- 18 (3) Photographs of items found with the human remains;
- 19 (4) Fingerprints from the remains;
- 20 (5) Tissue samples suitable for DNA typing;
- 21 (6) Samples of whole bone or hair suitable for DNA typing;
- 22 and



1           (7) Any other information that may support identification  
2           efforts.

3           (c) No person shall dispose of unidentified human remains,  
4 or engage in any action that will materially affect the  
5 unidentified human remains before the county medical examiner or  
6 coroner obtains samples suitable for DNA identification and  
7 archiving, takes photographs of the unidentified person or human  
8 remains, and completes all other appropriate steps for  
9 identification.

10          (d) Cremation of unidentified human remains is prohibited,  
11 except as provided in sections 346-15 and 841-16.

12          (e) The county medical examiner or coroner shall make  
13 reasonable efforts to obtain prompt DNA analysis of biological  
14 samples, if the human remains have not been identified by other  
15 means within thirty days.

16          (f) The county medical examiner or coroner shall seek  
17 support from appropriate federal agencies for human remains  
18 identification efforts. Such support may include but is not  
19 limited to available mitochondrial or nuclear DNA testing,  
20 federal grants for DNA testing, or federal grants for crime  
21 laboratory improvements or improvements to the medical examiner  
22 or coroner's facilities.



1 (g) The county medical examiner or coroner shall promptly  
2 forward to the county police department any information that can  
3 aid in the identification of missing persons. The police  
4 department shall provide the staff of the chief medical examiner  
5 or coroner of the same county with training about the data  
6 needed by the police department and the formats in which the  
7 data shall be recorded.

8 (h) Nothing in this chapter shall be interpreted to  
9 preclude the county medical examiner or coroner or any county  
10 police department from pursuing other efforts to identify  
11 unidentified human remains, including efforts to publicize  
12 information, descriptions, or photographs that may aid in the  
13 identification of the unidentified remains, allow family members  
14 to identify a missing person, or seek to protect the dignity of  
15 the missing person."

16 SECTION 3. Section 346-15, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
17 amended by amending subsection (f) to read as follows:

18 "(f) All unclaimed corpses shall be cremated[-]; provided  
19 that samples suitable for DNA identification and archiving have  
20 been taken pursuant to section -7. The department of human  
21 services shall authorize the cremation of unclaimed corpses."



1 SECTION 4. Section 841-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "§841-16 Disposal of decomposed remains. The coroner's  
4 physician may order forthwith the cremation of the remains of  
5 any person appearing to have come to death under any of the  
6 circumstances set forth in section 841-3 if, in the coroner's  
7 physician's opinion, the remains constitute an immediate menace  
8 to the public health. The cremation shall be supervised by the  
9 coroner and shall take place only after a reasonable amount of  
10 investigation has taken place in an effort to establish the  
11 identity of the remains and the cause of death[-]; provided that  
12 samples suitable for DNA identification and archiving have been  
13 taken pursuant to section -7. Such cremation shall take  
14 place after a burial-transit permit authorizing cremation has  
15 been secured from the local agent of the department of health."

16 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
17 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

18 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Missing Persons; Identification

**Description:**

Improves the capacity of law enforcement agencies to locate and return missing persons by adopting new procedures and by using technology and databases. (SD1)

