
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO NONREPORTING ON CHILD ABUSE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that in a 2015 report by
2 the department of human services, a total of 3,747 reports were
3 made regarding child abuse in the State of Hawaii. Of those
4 reports, 2,813 were reported by those mandated in section 350-
5 1.1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and nine hundred thirty-four were
6 reported by others. These numbers only represent the number of
7 reports that the department of human services has received. It
8 is estimated that for every report made, two go unreported in
9 the United States.

10 The legislature further finds that the current lawsuit that
11 was filed by thirty-four former Kamehameha Schools students
12 between the ages of nine and fourteen at the time, who were
13 abused by a psychiatrist recommended by the school, shows the
14 importance of reporting any case of child abuse to the proper
15 authorities.



1 The purpose of this Act is to change the penalty for
2 nonreporting of the abuse or neglect of a child, from a petty
3 misdemeanor to a class C felony.

4 SECTION 2. Section 350-1.2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
5 amended to read as follows:

6 "**§350-1.2 Nonreporting; penalty.** Any person subject to
7 section 350-1.1(a) who knowingly prevents another person from
8 reporting, or who knowingly fails to provide information as
9 required by section 350-1.1(c) or (d), shall be guilty of a
10 [~~petty misdemeanor~~] class C felony."

11 SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
12 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
13 begun before its effective date.

14 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
15 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

16 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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H.B. NO. 2479

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H.B. NO. 2429

Report Title:

Child Abuse; Nonreporting; Class C Felony

Description:

Changes the penalty for nonreporting of child abuse or neglect from a petty misdemeanor to a class C felony.

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