
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO LESS THAN LETHAL FORCE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that public safety
2 officers, including state deputy sheriffs, provide invaluable
3 societal contributions by risking their lives each day in
4 service to Hawaii's residents. The legislature also finds that
5 public safety officers are in a position of public trust as the
6 guardians and protectors of the State's communities. This role
7 requires extending respect and compassion to the people of the
8 State, while also holding individuals accountable for criminal
9 conduct.

10 The legislature further finds that since 2015, the number
11 of fatal shootings in Hawaii by law enforcement officers has
12 more than doubled and that it has risen from being less than one
13 per cent of the national total to being two per cent in 2019.
14 The State ranked forty-fourth among states in 2015 in the number
15 of fatal law enforcement officer shootings, but has climbed to
16 ranking thirty-second in 2019. The legislature notes that the



1 majority of these cases involved people who were not armed with
2 a gun.

3 The purpose of this Act is to support the role of public
4 safety officers by:

5 (1) Requiring the department of public safety to review
6 its policies and procedures governing the use of
7 force, weapons, and equipment;

8 (2) Requiring the law enforcement standards board to
9 review the department's use of force training; and

10 (3) Appropriating funds for training, equipment, and
11 related records management for the department.

12 SECTION 2. Chapter 353C, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
13 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
14 and to read as follows:

15 **§353C- Use of force policies, procedures, and**
16 **training.** (a) The department shall review and update, at least
17 annually, its policies and procedures governing the use of
18 force, weapons, and equipment.

19 (b) The department shall equip each law enforcement
20 officer with less-than-lethal weapons and shall provide and
21 require adequate applicable annual training.



1 (c) The department's use of force training shall be
2 reviewed by the law enforcement standards board established
3 under section 139-2 and shall include use of force decision-
4 making, crisis intervention, de-escalation techniques, and less-
5 than-lethal alternatives.

6 (d) The deputy director of the department's law
7 enforcement division shall be included and certified in all
8 weapons training."

9 SECTION 3. The department of public safety shall report
10 its progress regarding compliance with the requirements of
11 section 353C- (a), Hawaii Revised Statutes, to the legislature
12 by November 1, 2021.

13 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$200,000 or so much
15 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for the
16 development and implementation of less-than-lethal use of force
17 training and related records management for the deputy sheriffs
18 of the department of public safety.

19 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
20 public safety for the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for the
4 purchase and maintenance of less-than-lethal equipment,
5 including weapons, for use by the deputy sheriffs of the
6 department of public safety certified in the less-than-lethal
7 use of force.

8 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
9 public safety for the purposes of this Act.

10 SECTION 6. New statutory material is underscored.

11 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Department of Public Safety; Use of Less-Than-Lethal Force;
Policies; Training; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the Department of Public Safety to review its policies and procedures governing the use of force, weapons, and equipment. Requires the Law Enforcement Standards Board to review the Department's use of force training. Appropriates funds for training, equipment, and related records management for the Department. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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