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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

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RELATING TO THE SAFETY OF JUDICIARY PERSONNEL.

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

1       SECTION 1. Threats and inappropriate communications to  
2 judges and court personnel have escalated in recent years. A  
3 June 2021 National Institute of Justice audit of the United  
4 States Marshals Service's (USMS) judicial security activities  
5 noted that the USMS responded to more than four thousand two  
6 hundred threats or inappropriate communications against federal  
7 judges and other protected persons in fiscal year (FY) 2020, an  
8 increase of eighty-one per cent from the number of threats in FY  
9 2016, and a two-hundred thirty-three per cent increase in  
10 threats since FY 2008. At the state level, the number of  
11 threats and other inappropriate communications against Hawaii  
12 judges have increased tenfold in less than ten years, from two  
13 in 2012 to approximately twenty in 2021.

14       Other judiciary staff whose duties put them at risk of  
15 threats or violence are court social workers who monitor  
16 offenders placed on probation. Staff routinely supervise  
17 probationers convicted of violent crimes, and the Occupational



1 Safety and Health Administration categorizes probation officers  
2 as a high risk occupation for workplace violence. Incidents of  
3 threats and inappropriate communications against judiciary  
4 social workers providing probation oversight have increased  
5 sevenfold in the last nine years. Social workers with the  
6 judiciary's office of the public guardian have also been  
7 threatened with violence in the course of carrying out their  
8 duties as court-appointed guardians of incapacitated persons.

9 The USMS audit also noted that, historically, the safety of  
10 federal judges is at greater risk when they are away from the  
11 courthouse. This statement is borne out by incidents involving  
12 attacks against federal judges at their residences, which have  
13 resulted in the deaths of or serious injuries to judges and  
14 their family members. In at least one of these cases, the  
15 attacker used the Internet to access the judge's personal  
16 information.

17 The legislature further recognizes that, given the  
18 availability of personal information of judges and judiciary  
19 staff on the Internet, additional measures are needed to ensure  
20 the safety of judges and judiciary personnel. The  
21 identification of these methods will require collaboration and



1 cooperation among various governmental and nongovernmental  
2 entities.

3 The purpose of this Act is to:

4 (1) Prohibit a person or an organization from posting the  
5 personal information of federal and state judges and  
6 other judicial staff on the Internet with the intent  
7 to intimidate or threaten injury, harm, or violence to  
8 the judge or staff or their immediate family members;  
9 and

10 (2) Create a task force to identify further appropriate  
11 measures to enhance the security of judges and  
12 judiciary personnel while not diminishing civil  
13 liberties or unduly hindering governmental operations.

14 SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by  
15 adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read  
16 as follows:

17 **"CHAPTER**

18 **INTERNET POSTING OF PERSONAL INFORMATION**

19 **§ -1 Internet posting of personal information; judges**  
20 **and other court staff.** (a) A person or organization shall not  
21 knowingly make available on the Internet the personal



1 information of the following individuals, with the intent to  
2 intimidate or threaten injury, harm, or violence to the  
3 individual or the individual's immediate family members:

4 (1) A sitting, full-time judge of the Hawaii state  
5 district court, circuit court, or intermediate court  
6 of appeals;

7 (2) A sitting, full-time justice of the Hawaii supreme  
8 court;

9 (3) A sitting federal judge;

10 (4) Judiciary social workers who:

11 (A) Perform the following functions while managing  
12 and supervising a caseload of clients referred  
13 for court-ordered treatment, supervision, or  
14 probation:

15 (i) Provide professional social casework  
16 services to clients for the purpose of  
17 control, treatment, and rehabilitation; or

18 (ii) Monitor clients' compliance with and enforce  
19 the terms and conditions of court-ordered  
20 supervision or probation, making  
21 recommendations for modification or



1 revocation of court orders, as appropriate;

2 or

3 (B) Serve as court-appointed guardian in the office  
4 of the public guardian under chapter 551A; or

5 (5) United States probation and pretrial officers.

6 (b) For the purposes of this section:

7 "Federal judge" means a justice of the United States  
8 Supreme Court, judge of the United States Court of Appeals,  
9 judge or magistrate judge of the United States District Court,  
10 or judge of the United States Bankruptcy Court.

11 "Home address" includes a person's permanent residence and  
12 any secondary residences affirmatively identified by the person  
13 but does not include a person's work address.

14 "Immediate family member" means a spouse, child, or parent,  
15 or other minor or adult who lives in the residence, of the  
16 individuals listed in subsection (a)(1) to (5).

17 "Judiciary" means the branch of government established in  
18 section 601-1.

19 "Organization" means an association or entity, including  
20 charitable, religious and nonprofit organizations, for-profit



1 organizations, and business entities, formed for a specific  
2 purpose.

3 "Personal information" means a home address, home telephone  
4 number, cellular telephone number, pager number, social security  
5 number, personal email address, directions to the person's home,  
6 vehicle license plate number, or photographs of the person's  
7 home or vehicle.

8 § -2 **Injunctive and declaratory relief; attorney's fees**  
9 **and costs.** A person whose personal information is disseminated  
10 in violation of section -1 may bring an action seeking  
11 injunctive or declaratory relief. If a court finds that a  
12 violation has occurred, it may grant injunctive or declaratory  
13 relief and shall award the person reasonable attorney's fees and  
14 costs. Nothing in this section is intended to preclude civil or  
15 criminal liability or relief under any other provision of law."

16 SECTION 3. (a) A judicial security task force shall be  
17 convened and shall be placed within the judiciary for  
18 administrative purposes. The task force shall examine,  
19 evaluate, and determine optimal methods for securing online  
20 personal information of federal and state judges and appropriate  
21 judiciary personnel, which may include requirements for non-



1 disclosure or redaction of personal information on the Internet.

2 The task force shall have the following objectives:

3 (1) Identify, consult, and collaborate with public and  
4 private stakeholders to secure online personal  
5 information of federal and state judges and specified  
6 judiciary staff;

7 (2) Consider how other states, including New Jersey,  
8 California, Washington, and Illinois, as well as  
9 Congress are addressing the issue of judicial security  
10 with regard to prohibiting or limiting the online  
11 publication or posting of certain personal information  
12 for specified persons;

13 (3) Determine the most effective practices or  
14 restrictions, including those that limit persons,  
15 businesses, and associations from publicly posting,  
16 publishing, or displaying personal information  
17 concerning federal and state judges and certain  
18 judiciary personnel;

19 (4) Determine appropriate exceptions to these practices or  
20 restrictions, if any, for any suggested redaction or



1 nondisclosure requirements, including matters  
2 affecting the title to real property;

3 (5) Make recommendations regarding measures that would  
4 enhance judicial security without unduly hindering  
5 government operations and without diminishing civil  
6 liberties and first amendment rights; and

7 (6) Make recommendations as to penalties, fines, or other  
8 sanctions to be imposed for unlawful publication of  
9 personal information about federal and state judges or  
10 specified judiciary personnel.

11 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

12 (1) The administrative director of the courts or the  
13 director's designee, who shall serve as a co-chair of  
14 the task force;

15 (2) The director of public safety or the director's  
16 designee, who shall serve as a co-chair of the task  
17 force;

18 (3) The special assistant to the administrative director  
19 of the courts for judiciary security;





(4) A sitting full-time judge of the Hawaii state district court, circuit court, or intermediate court of appeals;

(5) A member representing the federal judiciary, who shall be invited by the co-chairs;

(6) A member appointed by the governor;

(7) The attorney general or the attorney general's designee;

(8) The comptroller or the comptroller's designee representing the office of enterprise technology services;

(9) The director of commerce and consumer affairs or the director's designee;

(10) A member representing the city and county of Honolulu, real property tax division;

(11) A member representing the law enforcement community, who shall be invited by the co-chairs; and

(12) A member of the nonprofit sector, who shall be invited by the co-chairs.

Task force members may recommend for membership on the task force additional stakeholders with appropriate expertise,



1 subject to approval by the co-chairs. For purposes of this  
2 subsection, "stakeholder" means a representative of a regional,  
3 state, or local government agency; a representative of a  
4 nongovernmental organization in areas that may include civil  
5 liberties, data collection and dissemination, and law  
6 enforcement; or advocates having experience in data collection  
7 and dissemination on the Internet, civil liberties, or law  
8 enforcement.

9 (c) The initial meeting of the task force shall occur no  
10 later than sixty days after the effective date of this Act,  
11 during which the members shall elect a vice chair and any other  
12 necessary officers from among the appointed members.

13 (d) The task force shall meet no less than quarterly and  
14 may hold additional public meetings as deemed necessary.  
15 Meetings may be held virtually.

16 (e) Members of the task force shall receive no  
17 compensation for their duties and shall not be subject to  
18 section 84-17, Hawaii Revised Statutes, solely based on their  
19 participation on the task force. The task force shall be exempt  
20 from chapter 92, Hawaii Revised Statutes.



1 (f) The task force shall submit a report of its findings  
2 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
3 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
4 the regular session of 2023.

5 (g) The task force shall cease to exist on July 1, 2023.

6 SECTION 4. This Act does not affect rights and duties that  
7 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were  
8 begun before its effective date.

9 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.

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# H.B. NO. 1539 H.D. 2

**Report Title:**

Judiciary Package; Judges; Court Staff; Information; Safety

**Description:**

Prohibits the posting of judges' and other court staff's personal information on the Internet with the intent to intimidate or threaten. Establishes a judicial security task force to review and recommend additional measures to enhance the security of judges and judiciary personnel. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD2)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

