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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT CENTRAL REGISTRY.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 350-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by adding two new definitions to be appropriately  
3 inserted and to read as follows:

4 "Harm" means the same as defined in section 587A-4.

5 "Threatened harm" means the same as defined in section  
6 587A-4."

7 SECTION 2. Chapter 350, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
8 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
9 and read as follows:

10 "§350- Central registry; expungement. (a) The  
11 department shall maintain a central registry of reported child  
12 abuse or neglect cases. When the department confirms a report  
13 by a preponderance of the evidence that a person is the  
14 perpetrator of child abuse or neglect, harm, or threatened harm,  
15 the person's name shall be included in the central registry.

16 (b) The department shall promptly expunge a person's name  
17 from the central registry if:



- 1        (1) The report is determined not confirmed by the  
2        department, including after administrative proceedings  
3        conducted pursuant to chapter 91; provided that in an  
4        administrative appeal hearing, the department shall  
5        have the burden of proving by a preponderance of the  
6        evidence that the confirmation was correct; or
- 7        (2) The family court determines that the report is not  
8        confirmed after:
- 9        (A) A petition arising from the report filed pursuant  
10       to section 587A-12 has been dismissed by order of  
11       the family court because the court did not find  
12       sufficient evidence based upon a preponderance of  
13       the evidence to assume jurisdiction pursuant to  
14       section 587A-5; or
- 15       (B) A written report with the disposition is  
16       submitted to the family court pursuant to a  
17       referral under section 586-10.5, and the family  
18       court finds that the facts supporting the  
19       confirmation were not proven by a preponderance  
20       of the evidence.



1           The family court shall retain exclusive jurisdiction  
2           for purposes of determining that a report was  
3           correctly confirmed under this paragraph as long as  
4           the family court matter is pending. The person whose  
5           name is included in the central registry shall not  
6           request an administrative appeal hearing to contest  
7           the confirmation unless the family court dismisses or  
8           closes the related matter without making findings as  
9           to the facts supporting the confirmation.

10           (c) A person who has been confirmed as the perpetrator of  
11 abuse or neglect, harm, or threatened harm, whose name has not  
12 been expunged from the central registry pursuant to subsection  
13 (b), may submit a request for expungement to the department;  
14 provided that:

- 15           (1) The confirmation is more than five years old;  
16           (2) The record does not involve aggravated circumstances  
17           or conduct described in paragraph (1)(B) of the  
18           definition of child abuse or neglect in section 350-1;  
19           and  
20           (3) There are no other reports of abuse or neglect  
21           subsequent to the confirmation.



1 Requests submitted that do not meet these minimum requirements  
2 shall be denied.

3 (d) A person seeking to have the person's own name  
4 expunged pursuant to subsection (c) shall submit a request for  
5 expungement to the department on a form prescribed by the  
6 department. The request for expungement shall be reviewed in  
7 accordance with rules adopted by the department pursuant to  
8 chapter 91 that shall consider, at minimum, the following  
9 criteria:

- 10 (1) Length of time since the report was confirmed;  
11 (2) Severity of the abuse or neglect, harm, or threatened  
12 harm;  
13 (3) Age of the child at the time of the report;  
14 (4) Age of the confirmed perpetrator at the time of the  
15 report;  
16 (5) Evidence of the confirmed perpetrator's  
17 rehabilitation; and  
18 (6) Any other relevant information received and deemed  
19 credible by the department.

20 (e) Upon review of a request for expungement, the  
21 department may grant the request for expungement based on a



1 finding of good cause shown that the expungement would serve the  
2 interests of justice. A person whose request for expungement is  
3 denied shall not submit another request for expungement for a  
4 period of five years from the date of the denial or five years  
5 from the date the denial is affirmed on appeal, whichever is  
6 later.

7 (f) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the  
8 contrary, the department may review reports on its own action  
9 and, in its discretion, may expunge a person's name from the  
10 central registry based on criteria established in rules adopted  
11 pursuant to chapter 91.

12 (g) Records and information contained in a report for  
13 which a person's name is expunged from the central registry  
14 shall be retained by the department solely for future risk and  
15 safety assessment purposes."

16 SECTION 3. Section 350-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
17 amended by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

18 "(d) The department shall maintain a central registry of  
19 reported child abuse or neglect cases [~~and shall promptly~~  
20 ~~expunge the reports in cases if:~~



- 1       ~~(1) The report is determined not confirmed by the~~  
2           ~~department, an administrative hearing officer, or a~~  
3           ~~Hawaii state court on appeal; or~~
- 4       ~~(2) The petition arising from the report has been~~  
5           ~~dismissed by order of the family court after an~~  
6           ~~adjudicatory hearing on the merits pursuant to chapter~~  
7           ~~587A.~~

8           ~~Records and information contained in a report that is~~  
9           ~~expunged may be retained by the department solely for future~~  
10          ~~risk and safety assessment purposes.] in accordance with section~~  
11          ~~350- ."~~

12           SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
13          and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

14           SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.



**Report Title:**

Child Abuse and Neglect; Harm or Threatened Harm; Central Registry; Expungement

**Description:**

Clarifies that a confirmed report of child abuse or neglect, harm, or threatened harm will result in the perpetrator's name being maintained in the central registry. Clarifies when a person's name may be expunged from the central registry and establishes a process for expungement upon request. Effective 7/1/2025. (HD1)

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

